

85R. (Records.) Records and papers in adoption proceedings, from and after the filing of the petition shall be sealed and opened to inspection only upon an order of the Court; provided, that in any proceeding in which there has been an entry of a final decree before June 1st, 1947, and in which the records have not already been sealed, the records and papers shall be sealed only on motion of one of the parties to the proceeding. In either case said seals shall not be broken, and said papers shall not be inspected by any person, including the parties to the proceeding, except upon order of the Court. The Clerks of the several courts shall keep respectively separate dockets for adoption proceedings.

85S. (Interpretation.) This sub-title shall not affect any adoption for which a final decree was entered before June 1, 1947, nor any adoption proceedings pending as of that date, except as expressly stipulated herein. All laws inconsistent with the provisions of this sub-title are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. If any provisions of this sub-title, or the applicability thereof to any person or set of circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of this sub-title and the applicability thereof to other persons and sets of circumstances shall not thereby be affected.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 93 of the Annotated Code (1939 Edition), title "Testamentary Law, sub-title "Distribution", said new section to be known as Section 139A, to follow immediately after Section 139 thereof, and to read as follows:

139A. In the application of the provisions of this sub-title there shall be no distinction between a legally adopted child and a child by birth, to the end that such adopted child shall take from, through and as a representative of its adopting parent or parents and the lineal or collateral kindred of such adopting parent or parents in the same manner as a child by birth and to the end that upon the death of an adopted child intestate without surviving descendants, such child's property, exclusive of the share of such child's surviving spouse, shall pass and be distributed in the same manner as if such child had been born to such adopting parent or parents in lawful wedlock.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall not apply to Allegany, Washington, Garrett, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties.