

Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments", to be under a new sub-title "Destitute Children", said new sections to be known as Sections 97A to 97G, inclusive, and to follow immediately after Section 97 of said Article, as said Section 97 was amended by Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1945, to read as follows:

#### Destitute Children

97A. Any person who has an adult child destitute of means and unable to support himself by reason of mental or physical infirmity, who is possessed of or able to earn means sufficient to provide such child with necessary shelter, food, care and clothing and who neglects or refuses so to do, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

97B. Whenever any child destitute of means of subsistence and unable either by reason of mental or physical infirmity to support himself shall, in writing under oath filed with a State's Attorney (the term State's Attorney as used in this sub-title includes Deputy State's Attorney or Assistant State's Attorney acting under authority given by the State's Attorney) accuse his parent of being possessed of or able to earn means sufficient to provide him with necessary shelter, food, care and clothing and has failed to do so, the State's Attorney may require witnesses other than the parent accused to appear before him for such examination of witnesses as may be deemed in the public interest. After such examination or inquiry the State's Attorney may file an information in the Circuit Court of the county or the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, as the case may be, against the accused parent charging him with the offense of non-support.

Nothing in this section, however, shall prevent the State's Attorney, if he sees fit, from submitting any such non-support case to the grand jury, as in other criminal cases, for such action as it may deem proper, instead of proceeding by way of information.

97C. The State's Attorney may, for the purpose of facilitating the handling of such cases, issue subpoenas and summonses requiring the personal attendance of any person, firm, corporation or association, other than the accused parent, to give testimony in connection with such examination or inquiry, or requiring the production of any and all documentary matter in connection with such