

HEREBY ADDED TO ARTICLE 88A OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (1951 EDITION), TITLE "STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE", SUB-TITLE "CHILD CARE", SAID NEW SECTION TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECTION 20 THEREOF, AND TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

19. (Legislative Policy.) The General Assembly hereby declares as a matter of legislative policy its conviction that the paramount consideration of this sub-title is the protection of the children affected by it. The condition of childhood is such that a child is not capable of protecting himself, and when its natural parents for any reason have relinquished its care to others, there arises the possibility of certain risks to the child which in turn require comparable and offsetting measures. When the interests of a child and those of an adult are in conflict, the doubt should be resolved in favor of the child. *The General Assembly further declares that this sub-title is related to the sub-title on "Adoption" of Article 16, Sections 76-94 of this Code, and should be read in relation thereto.*

20. (Licenses.) [The following institutions, agencies, and societies whether incorporated or not shall obtain a license from the State for the activities herein mentioned: (a) those having the legal or physical care, custody or control of one or more minors; and (b) those which act as child placement agencies, whether for adoption or otherwise. The placement of a child by anyone other than a licensed child placement agency, local department of welfare or the child's natural parent or parents, grandparents or the child's natural parents' adult brothers or sisters is prohibited.] (a) *The following entities, whether incorporated or not, and the following persons shall obtain licenses from the State Department of Public Welfare, as hereinafter set forth:*

(b) (Licensing of Placement Agencies.) 1. *Any institution, agency or society, which acts as a child placement agency, shall obtain a license from the State Department of Welfare.*

2. *A person may not act as a placement agency or place a child, except that*

(I) *The placement of a child with a person or persons related to the child by blood or marriage shall be permitted and shall require no license; and*

(II) *The placement of a child by the child's natural parent or parents OR GRANDPARENTS with a person not related by blood or marriage shall be permitted and shall require no license; provided, the placement be made directly by such person or persons without the intervention of any person or persons aiding or abetting the placement; and provided further, that no such placement, when made in contemplation of adoption, shall be made prior to the filing of a petition for adoption in a court of competent jurisdiction and obtaining the court's consent to such placement pending final action by the court on petition.*

(c) (Licensing of Homes.) *Any entity, and any person not related by blood or marriage to a minor, exercising care, custody or control in the nature of a parent or guardian for one or more minors, prior to the exercise of such custody or control, shall obtain a license from*