

dated.] *Minority of a natural parent shall not place such parent under a disability in adoption or guardianship with the right to consent to adoption proceedings and such parent, if he has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, may give a valid consent to adoption or guardianship with the right to consent to adoption and/or join as a party in such proceedings and shall be considered sui juris and no adoption or guardianship with right to consent to adoption shall be invalidated because of the minority of a natural parent.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1963.*

Approved March 29, 1963.

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CHAPTER 174

(Senate Bill 277)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 78 of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement), title "Chancery", sub-title "Adoption", amending the law regarding the rights of inheritance of an adopted person.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 78 of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement), title "Chancery", sub-title "Adoption", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

78.

From and after the entry of an interlocutory decree of adoption or from and after the entry of a final decree of adoption where no such interlocutory decree is entered, the following legal effects shall result:

(a) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, the person adopted shall be, to all intents and purposes, the child of the petitioner or petitioners; unless and until such interlocutory order of adoption is revoked the person adopted shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges and subject to all the obligations of a child born in lawful wedlock to the petitioner or petitioners.

(b) The natural parents of the person adopted, if living, shall after the interlocutory decree be relieved of all legal duties and obligations due from them to the person adopted, and shall be divested of all rights with respect to such person [; provided, that nothing in this sub-title shall be construed to prevent the person adopted from inheriting from his natural parents and relatives under the laws of this or any other state.] *Upon the entry of a Decree of Adoption, the adopted child shall lose all rights of inheritance from its natural parents and from their natural collateral or lineal relatives. The rights of the natural parents or their collateral or lineal relatives to inherit from such child shall cease upon the said adoption. Nothing contained in this section shall limit in any way the right of any person to provide for the distribution of his property by will.*