

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 16 - Chancery
Section 74
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1981 Replacement Volume and 1981 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapter 221 of the
Acts of the General Assembly of 1970)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as enacted by Chapter 221 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1970) read(s) as follows:

Article 16 - Chancery

74.

Every petition for adoption shall be accompanied by written statements of consent, subscribed and sworn to before a person authorized by law to administer an oath, as specified in this section, except that the court may in its discretion permit any petition to be filed without a necessary consent if such consent is added to the petition before the time set for hearings. However, the court may grant a petition for adoption without any of the consents hereinafter specified, if, after a hearing the court finds that such consent or consents are withheld contrary to the best interests of the child.

Consent to any proposed adoption shall be obtained from:

(a) The person to be adopted, if he is ten years of age or over; and also,

(b) Both the natural parents, if married, if they are alive and have not lost their parental rights through court action or voluntary relinquishment or abandonment; or

(c) One natural parent, if the other is not alive or has lost his parental rights as mentioned in (b) above; or

(d) The mother of a child born out of wedlock, if she is alive and has not lost her parental rights through court action or voluntary relinquishment or abandonment, except that if the child has been legitimated according to the laws of any jurisdiction, the consent of the father shall then also be required, if he is alive and has not subsequently lost his parental rights through court action or voluntary relinquishment or abandonment; or