

CHAPTER 312

(House Bill 334)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law - Adoption Search, Contact, and Reunion Services - Relatives and Members of the Adoptive Family

FOR the purpose of expanding adoption search, contact, and reunion services within the Social Services Administration to include services to search for, contact, and facilitate reunions with relatives of biological parents and members of the adoptive family under certain circumstances; authorizing a confidential intermediary providing adoption search, contact, and reunion services to attempt to contact a relative of a biological parent or a member of the adoptive family under certain circumstances; requiring a confidential intermediary to include certain information in a certain report filed with the Director of the Social Services Administration under certain circumstances; requiring an applicant for search, contact, and reunion services to execute an additional written agreement with a confidential intermediary under certain circumstances; authorizing a confidential intermediary to charge a certain fee for certain services; requiring a confidential intermediary to file a certain agreement with the Director and attempt to contact certain individuals under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; altering certain definitions; and generally relating to adoption search, contact, and reunion services.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law

Section 5-4B-01, 5-4B-07, 5-4B-10, and 5-4B-11

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Family Law

5-4B-01.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Administration" means the Social Services Administration of the Department.

[(d)](C) "Confidential intermediary" means an individual or child placement agency qualified by the Director for the purpose of providing search, contact, and reunion services under this subtitle.

[(e)](D) "Director" means the Director of the Administration.