

over nonrelatives when ordering shelter care for the child under certain circumstances; requiring a court to give priority to a child's relatives over nonrelatives when committing a child to the custody of ~~someone~~ an individual other than the parent of the child under certain circumstances; requiring a court to consider the best interests of the child in determining the child's permanency plan; requiring a court to consider certain permanency plans in descending order of priority; requiring a court to ~~give priority to a child's relatives over nonrelatives~~ consider certain factors when determining the child's permanency plan under certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to children in need of assistance.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-801(a) and (f), 3-815(a), (d), and (e), 3-819(a), and 3-823(a), (b), (c), and (d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-801(v), (w), (x), (y), (z), and (aa), 3-815(b) and (c), 3-819(b), and 3-823(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-801(v)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

3-801.

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

(f) "Child in need of assistance" means a child who requires court intervention because:

(1) The child has been abused, has been neglected, has a developmental disability, or has a mental disorder; and

(2) The child's parents, guardian, or custodian are unable or unwilling to give proper care and attention to the child and the child's needs.