

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2004 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,

Article - Family Law

Section ~~5-525(e)(1)~~ 5-525.2

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2004 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article - Family Law**

5-525.

(a) (1) The Administration shall establish a program of out-of-home placement for minor children:

(i) who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period of not more than 180 days, by a parent or legal guardian under a voluntary placement agreement;

(ii) who are abused, abandoned, neglected, or dependent, if a juvenile court:

1. has determined that continued residence in the child's home is contrary to the child's welfare; and

2. has committed the child to the custody or guardianship of a local department; or

(iii) who, with the approval of the Administration, are placed in an out-of-home placement by a local department under a voluntary placement agreement subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) (i) A local department may not seek legal custody of a child under a voluntary placement agreement if the child has a developmental disability or a mental illness and the purpose of the voluntary placement agreement is to obtain treatment or care related to the child's disability that the parent is unable to provide.

(ii) A child described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph may remain in an out-of-home placement under a voluntary placement agreement for more than 180 days if the child's disability necessitates care or treatment in the out-of-home placement and a juvenile court makes a finding that continuation of the placement is in the best interests of the child.

~~(iii) THE SIBLING OF A CHILD DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH WHO IS ALSO IN AN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PLACED IN THE SAME HOME WITH THE CHILD IF THE ADMINISTRATION FINDS THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE SIBLING AND THE CHILD TOGETHER IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH CHILDREN.~~