

5-308.

(a) This section does not limit the right of an individual to provide for distribution of property by will.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, after a decree of adoption is entered:

(1) the individual adopted:

(i) is the child of the petitioner for all intents and purposes; and

(ii) is entitled to all the rights and privileges of and is subject to all the obligations of a child born to the petitioner in wedlock;

(2) each living natural parent of the individual adopted is:

(i) relieved of all parental duties and obligations to the individual adopted; and

(ii) divested of all parental rights as to the individual adopted; and

(3) all rights of inheritance between the individual adopted and the natural relatives shall be governed by the Estates and Trusts Article.

(c) The legal effect of an adoption of an individual who is an adult is the same as that of the adoption of a minor.

(d) (1) In this subsection, "instrument" means a deed, grant, will, or other written instrument.

(2) ~~¶~~In any instrument executed on or after June 1, 1947, unless the ~~UNLESS AN~~ instrument clearly indicates otherwise, "child", "descendant", "heir", "issue", or any equivalent term includes an adopted individual whether the instrument was executed before or after the decree of adoption was entered.

~~¶~~(3) In any instrument executed before June 1, 1947, unless the instrument clearly indicates otherwise, "child", "descendant", "heir", "issue", or any equivalent term includes an adopted individual if the interlocutory decree of adoption, if any, or, if none, the final decree of adoption was entered on or after ~~June 1, 1947~~ JANUARY 1, 1945.

(e) (1) Unless and until an interlocutory decree of adoption is revoked, it has the same effect as a final decree of adoption.

(2) On entry of a final decree of adoption, the legal effects of an interlocutory decree of adoption are confirmed and continued.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any property or interest in property that, before the effective date of this Act, was vested in possession by an instrument in a class of children, descendants, heirs, issue, or any equivalent class of which, after the application of this Act, the adopted individual is a member.