

(II) THE CHILD'S ADJUSTMENT TO HOME, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY; AND

(III) IF THE NATURAL PARENT IS ABSENT, AN EVALUATION OF THE PETITIONER'S ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE THE ABSENT NATURAL PARENT.

(D) LIMITATION.

A COURT MAY NOT GRANT A DECREE OF ADOPTION UNDER THIS SECTION SOLELY BECAUSE A NATURAL PARENT:

(1) DOES NOT HAVE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILD BY REASON OF DIVORCE OR LEGAL SEPARATION; OR

(2) HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF CUSTODY OF THE CHILD BY THE ACT OF THE OTHER NATURAL PARENT.

(E) VISITATION PRIVILEGES.

AFTER THE ADOPTION, IF IT IS IN THE CHILD'S BEST INTEREST, THE ADOPTIVE PARENT AND A NATURAL--PARENT,--INCLUDING--A ~~NONCONSENTING-NATURAL-PARENT~~, NONCONSENTING NATURAL PARENT MAY AGREE TO VISITATION PRIVILEGES BETWEEN THE CHILD AND THE NATURAL PARENT OR SIBLINGS.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from Article 16, § 77.

In subsection (a)(2) of this section, the word "approved" is new language added to reflect administrative practice and customary terminology.

In subsection (e) of this section, the word "if" is substituted for the former phrase "in cases in which", for brevity.

Also in subsection (e) of this section, the word "adoptive" is substituted for the former word "adopting", for clarity.

Defined terms: "Child placement agency" § 5-301  
"Includes" § 1-101 "Independent adoption" § 5-301  
"Support" § 1-101

5-313. SAME -- GUARDIANSHIP; ADOPTION IN GENERAL.

(A) IN GENERAL.

A COURT MAY GRANT A DECREE OF ADOPTION OR A DECREE OF GUARDIANSHIP, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE A NATURAL PARENT OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY §§ 5-311 AND 5-317 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IF THE COURT FINDS BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD TO TERMINATE THE NATURAL PARENTS' PARENT'S RIGHTS AS TO THE CHILD AND THAT: