

House Bill No. 30

AN ACT concerning

Visitation Rights – Grandparents

FOR the purpose of ~~broadening the authority of an equity court to grant visitation rights to certain grandparents, subject to certain conditions and limitations~~ clarifying the rights of grandparents to petition for and the power of an equity court to grant certain visitation rights under certain circumstances; and generally relating to visitation rights of ~~certain grandparents under certain circumstances~~ grandparents.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 9-102

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Replacement Volume and 1992 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

9-102.

~~(A) [At] THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION ARE APPLICABLE:~~

~~(1) AT any time after the termination of a marriage by divorce, annulment, or death [, an];~~ OR

~~(2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE MARITAL STATUS OF A PARENT OR CUSTODIAN OF A GRANDCHILD, IF:~~

~~(I) A GRANDPARENT HAS ESTABLISHED OR ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A SUBSTANTIAL PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH A NATURAL OR ADOPTED GRANDCHILD; AND~~

~~(II) THE PARENT OR CUSTODIAN OF THE CHILD HAS DENIED THE GRANDPARENT REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITATION WITH THE CHILD.~~

(B) AN equity court may:

(1) consider a petition for reasonable visitation OF A GRANDCHILD by a grandparent [of a natural or adopted child of the parties whose marriage has been terminated]; and

(2) ~~if the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child,~~ grant visitation rights to the grandparent:

~~(I) AFTER CONSIDERATION OF ALL RELEVANT FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES;~~