

direct review of the sentence or conviction. Except as provided in subsection (a)(3) of this section, a petition for relief under this subtitle may be filed at any time, except that where an appeal has been taken from the judgment of conviction to the Court of Special Appeals, it shall not be necessary to appoint counsel or conduct a hearing or take any action whatsoever on the petition, until the judgment of conviction becomes final in the Court of Special Appeals. No appeals to the Court of Appeals or the Court of Special Appeals in habeas corpus or coram nobis cases, or from other common-law or statutory remedies which have heretofore been available for challenging the validity of incarceration under sentence of death or imprisonment shall be permitted or entertained, except appeals in such cases pending in the Court of Appeals on June 1, 1958, shall be processed in due course. Provided, however, that nothing in this subtitle shall operate to bar an appeal to the Court of Special Appeals (1) in a habeas corpus proceeding instituted under § 2-210 of Article 41 of this Code or (2) in any other proceeding in which a writ of habeas corpus is sought for any purpose other than to challenge the legality of a conviction of a crime or sentence of death or imprisonment therefor, including confinement as a result of a proceeding under Article 31B of this Code.

(f) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petitioner is entitled to the assistance of counsel and a hearing on a petition filed under this section.

(2) If a defendant seeks to reopen a postconviction proceeding under subsection (a)(2)(iii) of this section, the court shall determine whether assistance of counsel or a hearing should be granted.

(g) (1) The date for a hearing on a petition filed in a case in which a sentence of death has been imposed shall:

(i) Be set within 30 days after the day on which the petition is filed; and

(ii) Be no later than 90 days after the day on which the petition is filed.

(2) After the hearing date is set under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the court may not change the date unless:

(i) A party files a motion requesting the change; and

(ii) Good cause for the change is shown.

(3) The court shall issue a decision on a petition filed in a case in which a sentence of death has been imposed within 90 days after the hearing on the petition.

(4) This subsection may be enforced by either party through the filing of a petition for writ of mandamus in the Court of Appeals.

(H) (1) BEFORE A HEARING ON A PETITION FILED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE VICTIM OR VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF THE PROCEEDING AS PROVIDED UNDER § 770 OR § 784 OF THIS ARTICLE.