

CHAPTER 496

(House Bill 705)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law - Petitions for Adoption or Guardianship - Notice to Parents

FOR the purpose of repealing provisions of law concerning waiver of notice to a natural parent of the filing of a petition for adoption or guardianship; repealing a provision of law authorizing a court to order notice by posting under certain circumstances; requiring a court to order notice by publication under certain circumstances; establishing the manner of notice by publication; clarifying language; and generally relating to notice of the filing of a petition for adoption or guardianship.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law

Section 5-322

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article - Family Law

5-322.

(a) (1) (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petitioner shall give to each person whose consent is required notice of the filing of a petition for adoption or a petition for guardianship.

(ii) In addition to the notice of filing required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, if a petition for guardianship is filed after a juvenile proceeding in which the child has been adjudicated to be a child in need of assistance, a neglected child, or an abused child, a petitioner shall give notice of the filing of the petition for guardianship to:

1. the attorney who represented a natural parent in the juvenile proceeding; and
2. the attorney who represented the minor child in the juvenile proceeding.

(2) A person whose consent is filed with the petition need not be given notice if the consent includes a waiver of the right to notice of the filing of the petition.

(3) The petitioner shall give notice by entry and service of a show cause order sent to the last known address that the petitioner has for each person whose consent is required.