

requiring certain affidavit forms to be provided free of charge at certain offices; requiring a certain relative to provide certain notice to a local department of social services within a certain time period; requiring a certain relative to file a certain affidavit annually; authorizing certain relatives to apply for medical and public assistance entitlements for certain children; providing that an affidavit under this Act does not abrogate the right of a parent or guardian to consent to certain health care; defining certain terms; and generally relating to informal kinship care and consenting to health care on behalf of a child.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 20-105

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

20-105.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE" MEANS A LIVING ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH A RELATIVE OF A CHILD, WHO IS NOT IN THE CARE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, PROVIDES FOR THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE CHILD DUE TO A SERIOUS FAMILY HARDSHIP.

(3) "RELATIVE" MEANS AN ADULT RELATED TO THE CHILD BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE WITHIN THE FIFTH DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY.

(4) "SERIOUS FAMILY HARDSHIP" MEANS:

(I) DEATH OF A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD;

(II) SERIOUS ILLNESS OF A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD;

(III) DRUG ADDICTION OF A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD;

(IV) INCARCERATION OF A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD;

(V) ABANDONMENT BY A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD; OR

(VI) ASSIGNMENT OF A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.