

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section ~~5-502, 5-525, 5-544, 5-525~~ and 5-545

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

BY adding to

~~Article – Family Law~~

~~Section 5-505 and 5-510.1~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)~~

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

**Article – Family Law**

~~5-502.~~

~~(a) The General Assembly declares that:~~

~~(1) minor children are not capable of protecting themselves; [and]~~

~~(2) when a parent has relinquished the care of the parent's minor child to others, there is a possibility of certain risks to the child that require compensating measures; AND~~

~~(3) WHEN A PARENT HAS RELINQUISHED THE CARE OF THE PARENT'S MINOR CHILD TO OTHERS, THERE SHALL BE SUFFICIENT FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE THE CHILD WITH ALL NECESSARY SERVICES.~~

~~(b) It is the policy of this State:~~

~~(1) to protect minor children whose care has been relinquished to others by the children's parent;~~

~~(2) to resolve doubts in favor of the child when there is a conflict between the interests of a minor child and the interests of an adult; and~~

~~(3) to encourage the development of day care services for minor children in a safe, healthy, and homelike environment.~~

~~5-505.~~

~~AFTER JANUARY 1, 2006, A CHILD COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT BE PLACED IN A GROUP HOME OR RESIDENTIAL FACILITY THAT ALSO ACCEPTS CHILDREN FROM ANY OTHER UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT.~~