

independent adoption to pay certain costs for certain services received by the natural parents; requiring the text of the written consent of a natural parent in an independent adoption to include certain statements; providing certain exceptions; prohibiting certain attorneys from representing certain parties; requiring the petitioner in an independent adoption to file a certain accounting report with the court prior to the entry of a final decree of adoption; requiring the court to hold a hearing prior to entering a final decree of adoption; making a certain requirement that certain medical histories be compiled and made available to certain persons applicable in all cases and requiring that the information be made available to prospective adoptive parents; and generally relating to adoption procedures.

BY adding to

Article – Family Law
Section 5-320, 5-321, and 5-324.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law
Section 5-323, 5-327, and 5-328
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

5-320.

(A) IN AN INDEPENDENT ADOPTION, THE NATURAL PARENTS SHALL BE ADVISED OF THE OPTION OF:

- (1) RECEIVING INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL; AND
- (2) RECEIVING ~~PSYCHOLOGICAL~~ ADOPTION COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE.

(B) (1) THE COURT MAY ORDER THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS TO PAY ALL OR PART OF THE REASONABLE COSTS OF INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL AND THE REASONABLE COSTS FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME OF ~~PSYCHOLOGICAL~~ ADOPTION COUNSELING OR GUIDANCE RECEIVED BY THE NATURAL PARENTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

(2) THE TEXT OF THE NATURAL PARENTS' CONSENT REQUIRED UNDER § 5-311 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL INCLUDE: