

(I) A STATEMENT THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE NATURAL PARENTS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION; AND

(II) A STATEMENT INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THE NATURAL PARENTS HAVE ELECTED TO PURSUE ANY OPTION PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

5-321.

THE PROVISIONS OF §§ 5-320, 5-323(D), 5-327(C), AND 5-328 OF THIS SUBTITLE DO NOT APPLY IN THE CASE OF:

(1) AN ADOPTION BY THE SPOUSE OF THE NATURAL PARENT OF THE ADOPTEE; OR

(2) AN ADOPTION BY A RELATIVE OF THE NATURAL PARENT OF THE ADOPTEE.

5-323.

(a) In a proceeding for an adoption or guardianship, the court shall appoint separate counsel to represent:

(1) the individual to be adopted, if the consent of the individual to be adopted is required and the individual has a disability that renders the individual incapable of consenting and otherwise effectively participating in the proceedings;

(2) a natural parent who has a disability that renders the natural parent incapable of consenting and effectively participating in the proceedings;

(3) a minor parent;

(4) in an involuntary termination of parental rights, an individual who is the subject of the proceeding and an indigent parent; and

(5) in a hearing under § 5-319 of this subtitle, an indigent natural parent who has not waived the right to receive notice of the child's status.

(b) To determine whether an individual whose consent is required has a disability that renders the individual incapable of consenting and otherwise effectively participating in the proceedings, the court, on its own motion or on motion of a party, may order an examination of the individual.

(c) Counsel appointed under this section may be compensated for reasonable fees, as approved by the court. The court may assign the costs among the parties as the court considers appropriate.

(D) (1) AN ATTORNEY OR FIRM REPRESENTING THE ADOPTIVE PARENT OR CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT REPRESENT THE NATURAL PARENT IN THE SAME ADOPTION PROCEEDING.