

Section 5-525(d) and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-816.1.

(c) In making its findings in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the court shall consider:

(3) For a hearing under § 3-823 of this subtitle, whether a local department has provided appropriate services that facilitate the achievement of a permanency plan for the child, **INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF IN-STATE AND OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENT OPTIONS;**

3-823.

(i) (1) In this subsection, "preadoptive parent" means an individual whom a child placement agency, as defined in § 5-101 of the Family Law Article, approves to adopt a child who has been placed in the individual's home for adoption before the order of adoption.

(2) (I) If practicable, **BEFORE ANY HEARING CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION**, the local department shall give at least [7] 10 days' notice [before any hearing conducted under this section] to the child's foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child **OF THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE HEARING AND OF THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD.**

(II) **UNLESS WAIVED FOR GOOD CAUSE, THE NOTICE SHALL BE IN WRITING.**

(3) The foster parent, preadoptive parent, relative, or an attorney for the foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative shall be given [an opportunity] **THE RIGHT** to be heard at the hearing.

(4) The foster parent, preadoptive parent, relative, or attorney may not be considered to be a party solely on the basis of the right to notice and [opportunity] **THE RIGHT** to be heard provided under this subsection.