

tion from his natural parents and from adoption by person unfit to have such responsibility, and (except in **[Allegany,]** Garrett and Washington counties), whenever practicable, from adoption by persons of a different religious belief than that of the minor or his parents, unless the natural parent or parents specifically indicate or consent to a different choice; (2) the natural parents, from hurried and abrupt decisions to give up the child; and (3) the adopting parents, by providing them information about the child and his background, and protecting them from subsequent disturbance of their relationships with the child by natural parents.

The General Assembly further declares that this subtitle is related to the subtitle on "Child Care" of Article 88A, Sections 19-32, of this Code, and should be read in relation thereto.

68. The circuit courts of the several counties of this State, sitting in equity, and any court of Baltimore City having equity jurisdiction, shall have jurisdiction of all petitions for adoption under this subtitle. Any such petition may be filed in the county, or in Baltimore City, as the case may be, in which at the time of filing the petition (1) the petitioner or petitioners have their domicile; or (2) the petitioner or petitioners have had their place of abode for a period of at least 90 days next preceding the filing of the petition; or (3) any lawfully licensed child placement agency, having legal or physical care, custody or control of the person to be adopted is located; or (4) the person to be adopted is domiciled, if such person be an adult or be related by blood or marriage to the petitioner; or (5) such petition may be filed in any court having equity jurisdiction which had prior to the filing of the petition for adoption assumed a continuing jurisdiction over the custody of the person to be adopted. Provided, however, except in (5) above no such petition shall be filed unless either the person to be adopted or the custodian shall be physically within this State and subject to the jurisdiction of the courts thereof. Provided, that, in **[Allegany,]** Garrett and Washington counties, the circuit courts, sitting in equity, shall have jurisdiction of all petitions for adoption under this subtitle. Any such petition may be filed in **[Alleghany,]** Garrett and Washington counties in which (1) the petitioner or petitioners have their domicile; or (2) the person to be adopted is domiciled; or (3) any lawfully licensed child placement agency, having legal or physical care, custody or control of the person to be adopted is located; or (4) such petition may be filed in any court having equity jurisdiction which had prior to the filing of the petition for adoption assumed a continuing jurisdiction over the custody of the person to be adopted. Provided, however, except in (4) above no such petition shall be filed unless either the person to be adopted or the custodian shall be physically within this State and subject to the jurisdiction of the courts thereof.

88. Sections 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 83 and 86 of this article shall not apply in **[Allegany,]** Calvert, Charles, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington counties. Section 87A of this article shall apply in **[Allegany,]** Calvert, Charles, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington counties but not in any other county of the State or in Baltimore City. Sections 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 78, 80, 81, 82, 84 and 85 of this article shall apply throughout the entire State.