

Chapter 48.

Adoptions.

Article 1.

General Provisions.

§ 48-1-100. Legislative findings and intent; construction of Chapter.

(a) The General Assembly finds that it is in the public interest to establish a clear judicial process for adoptions, to promote the integrity and finality of adoptions, to encourage prompt, conclusive disposition of adoption proceedings, and to structure services to adopted children, biological parents, and adoptive parents that will provide for the needs and protect the interests of all parties to an adoption, particularly adopted minors.

(b) With special regard for the adoption of minors, the General Assembly declares as a matter of legislative policy that:

- (1) The primary purpose of this Chapter is to advance the welfare of minors by
 - (i) protecting minors from unnecessary separation from their original parents,
 - (ii) facilitating the adoption of minors in need of adoptive placement by persons who can give them love, care, security, and support,
 - (iii) protecting minors from placement with adoptive parents unfit to have responsibility for their care and rearing, and
 - (iv) assuring the finality of the adoption; and
- (2) Secondary purposes of this Chapter are
 - (i) to protect biological parents from ill-advised decisions to relinquish a child or consent to the child's adoption,
 - (ii) to protect adoptive parents from assuming responsibility for a child about whose heredity or mental or physical condition they know nothing,
 - (iii) to protect the privacy of the parties to the adoption, and
 - (iv) to discourage unlawful trafficking in minors and other unlawful placement activities.

(c) In construing this Chapter, the needs, interests, and rights of minor adoptees are primary. Any conflict between the interests of a minor adoptee and those of an adult shall be resolved in favor of the minor.

(d) This Chapter shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies. (1949, c. 300; 1983, c. 454, ss. 1, 6; 1995, c. 457, s. 2.)