

No. 1980-163

AN ACT

HB 213

Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding provisions relating to the termination of parent-child relationships and adoptions; revising certain provisions of the law relating thereto; and making repeals.

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The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Title 23, act of November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is amended by adding parts to read:

TITLE 23
DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Part

- III. Adoption
- IX. Miscellaneous Provisions

PART III
ADOPTION

Chapter

- 21. Preliminary Provisions
- 23. Jurisdiction and Parties
- 25. Proceedings Prior to Petition to Adopt
- 27. Petition for Adoption
- 29. Decrees and Records

CHAPTER 21
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Sec.

- 2101. Short title of part.
- 2102. Definitions.

§ 2101. Short title of part.

This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Adoption Act."

§ 2102. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this part shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

"Adoptee." An individual proposed to be adopted.

"Agency." Any incorporated or unincorporated organization, society, institution or other entity, public or voluntary, which may receive or provide for the care of children, supervised by the Department of Public Welfare and providing adoption services in accordance with standards established by the department.

"Clerk." The clerk of the division of the court of common pleas having jurisdiction over voluntary relinquishment, involuntary termination and adoption proceedings.

"Court." The court of common pleas.

"Intermediary." Any person or persons or agency acting between the parent or parents and the proposed adoptive parent or parents in arranging an adoption placement.

"Parent." Includes adoptive parent.

CHAPTER 23
JURISDICTION AND PARTIES

Subchapter

- A. Jurisdiction
- B. Parties

SUBCHAPTER A JURISDICTION

Sec.

2301. Court.

2302. Venue.

§ 2301. Court.

The court of common pleas of each county shall exercise through the appropriate division original jurisdiction over voluntary relinquishment, involuntary termination and adoption proceedings.

§ 2302. Venue.

Proceedings for voluntary relinquishment, involuntary termination and adoption may be brought in the court of the county:

(1) Where the parent or parents or the adoptee or the person or persons who have filed a report of intention to adopt required by section 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt) reside.

(2) In which is located an office of an agency having custody of the adoptee or in the county where the agency having placed the adoptee is located.

(3) With leave of court, in which the adoptee formerly resided.

SUBCHAPTER B PARTIES

Sec.

2311. Who may be adopted.

2312. Who may adopt.

2313. Representation for child.

§ 2311. Who may be adopted.

Any individual may be adopted, regardless of his age or residence.

§ 2312. Who may adopt.

Any individual may become an adopting parent.

§ 2313. Representation for child.

The court shall appoint counsel to represent the child in an involuntary termination proceeding and at anytime may appoint counsel or a guardian ad litem for a child who has not reached the age of 18 years.

CHAPTER 25 PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO PETITION TO ADOPT

Subchapter

A. Voluntary Relinquishment

B. Involuntary Termination

C. Decree of Termination

D. Reports and Investigation

SUBCHAPTER A
VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT

Sec.

2501. Relinquishment to agency.

2502. Relinquishment to adult intending to adopt child.

2503. Hearing.

§ 2501. Relinquishment to agency.

(a) Petition.—When any child under the age of 18 years has been in the care of an agency for a minimum period of three days or, whether or not the agency has the physical care of the child, the agency has received a written notice of the present intent to transfer to it custody of the child, executed by the parent, the parent or parents of the child may petition the court for permission to relinquish forever all parental rights and duties with respect to their child.

(b) Consents.—The written consent of a parent or guardian of a petitioner who has not reached 18 years of age shall not be required. The consent of the agency to accept custody of the child until such time as the child is adopted shall be required.

§ 2502. Relinquishment to adult intending to adopt child.

(a) Petition.—When any child under the age of 18 years has been for a minimum period of 30 days in the exclusive care of an adult or adults who have filed a report of intention to adopt required by section 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt), the parent or parents of the child may petition the court for permission to relinquish forever all parental rights to their child.

(b) Consents.—The written consent of a parent or guardian of a petitioner who has not reached 18 years of age shall not be required. The adult or adults having care of the child shall file a separate consent to accept custody of the child.

§ 2503. Hearing.

(a) General rule.—Upon presentation of a petition prepared pursuant to section 2501 (relating to relinquishment to agency) or section 2502 (relating to relinquishment to adult intending to adopt child), the court shall fix a time for hearing which shall not be less than ten days after filing of the petition. The petitioner must appear at the hearing.

(b) Notice.—Notice to the petitioner shall be in the form provided in section 2513(b) (relating to hearing). Notice of the hearing shall be given to the other parent and to the parents or guardian of a petitioner who has not reached 18 years of age.

(c) Decree.—After hearing, which shall be private, the court may enter a decree of termination of parental rights in the case of their relinquishment to an adult or a decree of termination of parental rights and duties, including the obligation of support, in the case of their relinquishment to an agency.

**SUBCHAPTER B
INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION**

Sec.

2511. Grounds for involuntary termination.

2512. Petition for involuntary termination.

2513. Hearing.

§ 2511. Grounds for involuntary termination.

(a) **General rule.**—The rights of a parent in regard to a child may be terminated after a petition filed on any of the following grounds:

(1) The parent by conduct continuing for a period of at least six months either has evidenced a settled purpose of relinquishing parental claim to a child or has refused or failed to perform parental duties.

(2) The repeated and continued incapacity, abuse, neglect or refusal of the parent has caused the child to be without essential parental care, control or subsistence necessary for his physical or mental well-being and the conditions and causes of the incapacity, abuse, neglect or refusal cannot or will not be remedied by the parent.

(3) The parent is the presumptive but not the natural father of the child.

(4) The child is in the custody of an agency, having been found under such circumstances that the identity or whereabouts of the parent is unknown and cannot be ascertained by diligent search and the parent does not claim the child within three months after the child is found.

(5) The child has been removed from the care of the parent by the court or under a voluntary agreement with an agency for a period of at least six months, the conditions which led to the removal or placement of the child continue to exist, the parent cannot or will not remedy those conditions within a reasonable period of time, the services or assistance reasonably available to the parent are not likely to remedy the conditions which led to the removal or placement of the child within a reasonable period of time and termination of the parental rights would best serve the needs and welfare of the child.

(b) **Other considerations.**—The court in terminating the rights of a parent shall give primary consideration to the needs and welfare of the child. The rights of a parent shall not be terminated solely on the basis of environmental factors such as inadequate housing, furnishings, income, clothing and medical care if found to be beyond the control of the parent.

§ 2512. Petition for involuntary termination.

(a) **Who may file.**—A petition to terminate parental rights with respect to a child under the age of 18 years may be filed by any of the following:

(1) Either parent when termination is sought with respect to the other parent.

(2) An agency.

(3) The individual having custody or standing in loco parentis to the child and who has filed a report of intention to adopt required by section 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt).

(b) Contents.—The petition shall set forth specifically those grounds and facts alleged as the basis for terminating parental rights. The petition filed under this section shall also contain an averment that the petitioner will assume custody of the child until such time as the child is adopted. If the petitioner is an agency it shall not be required to aver that an adoption is presently contemplated nor that a person with a present intention to adopt exists.

(c) Father not identified.—If the petition does not identify the father of the child, it shall state whether a claim of paternity has been filed under section 8303 (relating to claim of paternity).

§ 2513. Hearing.

(a) Time.—The court shall fix a time for hearing on a petition filed under section 2512 (relating to petition for involuntary termination) which shall be not less than ten days after filing of the petition.

(b) Notice.—At least ten days' notice shall be given to the parent or parents, putative parent, or parent of a minor parent whose rights are to be terminated, by registered mail to his or their last known address or by such other means as the court may require. A putative parent shall include one who has filed a claim of paternity as provided in section 8303 (relating to claim of paternity) prior to the institution of proceedings. The notice shall state the following:

“A petition has been filed asking the court to put an end to all rights you have to your child (insert name of child). The court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. That hearing will be held in (insert place, giving reference to exact room and building number or designation) on (insert date) at (insert time). If you do not appear at this hearing, the court may decide that you are not interested in retaining your rights to your child and your failure to appear may affect the court’s decision on whether to end your rights to your child. You are warned that even if you fail to appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing will go on without you and your rights to your child may be ended by the court without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

(Name)
(Address).....
.....
(Telephone number).....”

(c) Mother competent witness on paternity issue.—The natural mother shall be a competent witness as to whether the presumptive or putative father is the natural father of the child.

(d) Decree.—After hearing, which may be private, the court shall make a finding relative to the pertinent provisions of section 2511 (relating to grounds for involuntary termination) and upon such finding may enter a decree of termination of parental rights.

SUBCHAPTER C DECREE OF TERMINATION

Sec.

2521. Effect of decree of termination.

§ 2521. Effect of decree of termination.

(a) Adoption proceeding rights extinguished.—A decree terminating all rights of a parent or a decree terminating all rights and duties of a parent entered by a court of competent jurisdiction shall extinguish the power or the right of the parent to object to or receive notice of adoption proceedings.

(b) Award of custody.—The decree shall award custody of the child to the agency or the person consenting to accept custody under section 2501 (relating to relinquishment to agency) or section 2502 (relating to relinquishment to adult intending to adopt child) or the petitioner in the case of a proceeding under section 2512 (relating to petition for involuntary termination).

(c) Authority of agency or person receiving custody.—An agency or person receiving custody of a child shall stand in loco parentis to the child and in such capacity shall have the authority, inter alia, to consent to marriage, to enlistment in the armed forces and to major medical, psychiatric and surgical treatment and to exercise such other authority concerning the child as a natural parent could exercise.

SUBCHAPTER D REPORTS AND INVESTIGATION

Sec.

2531. Report of intention to adopt.

2532. Filing of report.

2533. Report of intermediary.

2534. Exhibits.

2535. Investigation.

§ 2531. Report of intention to adopt.

(a) General rule.—Every person now having or hereafter receiving or retaining custody or physical care of any child for the purpose or with the intention of adopting a child under the age of 18 years shall report to the court in which the petition for adoption will be filed.

(b) Contents.—The report shall set forth:

- (1) The circumstances surrounding the persons receiving or retaining custody or physical care of the child.
- (2) The name, sex, racial background, age, date and place of birth and religious affiliation of the child.
- (3) The name and address of the intermediary.
- (4) An itemized accounting of moneys and consideration paid or to be paid to the intermediary.
- (5) The name and address of the person or persons making the report.

When a person receives or retains custody or physical care of a child from an agency the report shall set forth only the name and address of the agency and the circumstances surrounding such person receiving or retaining custody or physical care of the child.

(c) When report not required.—No report shall be required when the child is the child, grandchild, stepchild, brother or sister of the whole or half blood, or niece or nephew by blood, marriage or adoption of the person receiving or retaining custody or physical care. § 2532. Filing of report.

The report required by section 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt) shall be filed within 30 days after the date of receipt of the custody or physical care of the child.

§ 2533. Report of intermediary.

(a) General rule.—Within six months after filing the report of intention to adopt, the intermediary who or which arranged the adoption placement of any child under the age of 18 years shall make a written report under oath to the court in which the petition for adoption will be filed and shall thereupon forthwith notify in writing the adopting parent or parents of the fact that the report has been filed and the date thereof.

(b) Contents.—The report shall set forth:

- (1) The name and address of the intermediary.
- (2) The name, sex, racial background, age, date and place of birth and religious affiliation of the child.
- (3) The date of the placement of the child with the adopting parent or parents.
- (4) The name, racial background, age, marital status as of the time of birth of the child and during one year prior thereto, and religious affiliation of the parents of the child.
- (5) Identification of proceedings in which any decree of termination of parental rights, or parental rights and duties, with respect to the child was entered.
- (6) The residence of the parents or parent of the child, if there has been no such decree of termination.

(7) A statement that all consents required by section 2711 (relating to consents necessary to adoption) are attached as exhibits or the basis upon which the consents are not required.

(8) An itemized accounting of moneys and consideration paid or to be paid to or received by the intermediary or to or by any other person or persons to the knowledge of the intermediary by reason of the adoption placement.

(9) A full description and statement of the value of all property owned or possessed by the child.

(10) A statement that no provision of any statute regulating the interstate placement of children has been violated with respect to the placement of the child.

(11) If no birth certificate or certification of registration of birth can be obtained, a statement of the reason therefor.

§ 2534. Exhibits.

The report of the intermediary shall have attached to it the following exhibits:

(1) A birth certificate or certification of registration of birth of the child if it can be obtained.

(2) All consents to adoption required by section 2711 (relating to consents necessary to adoption).

(3) A certified copy of any decree of termination of parental rights or parental rights and duties made by a court other than the court in which the petition for adoption will be filed.

§ 2535. Investigation.

(a) General rule.—When a report required by section 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt) has been filed, the court shall cause an investigation to be made and a report filed by a local public child care agency, a voluntary child care agency with its consent or an appropriate person designated by the court. In lieu of the investigation, the court may accept an investigation made by the agency which placed the child and the report of investigation in such cases may be incorporated into the report of the intermediary required by section 2533 (relating to report of intermediary).

(b) Matters covered.—The investigation shall cover all pertinent information regarding the child's eligibility for adoption and the suitability of the placement, including the physical, mental and emotional needs and welfare of the child, and the child's and the adopting parents' age, sex, health and racial, ethnic and religious background.

(c) Payment of costs.—The court may establish the procedure for the payment of investigation costs.

CHAPTER 27
PETITION FOR ADOPTION

Subchapter

- A. Petition
- B. Consents
- C. Hearings

SUBCHAPTER A PETITION

Sec.

2701. Contents of petition for adoption.

2702. Exhibits.

§ 2701. Contents of petition for adoption.

A petition for adoption shall set forth:

(1) The full name, residence, marital status, age, occupation, religious affiliation and racial background of the adopting parent or parents and their relationship, if any, to the adoptee.

(2) That the reports under sections 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt) and 2533 (relating to report of intermediary) have been filed, if required.

(3) The name and address of the intermediary, if any.

(4) The full name of the adoptee and the fact and length of time of the residence of the adoptee with the adopting parent or parents.

(5) If there is no intermediary or if no report of the intermediary has been filed or if the adoptee is over the age of 18 years, all vital statistics and other information enumerated and required to be stated of record by section 2533, so far as applicable.

(6) If a change in name of the adoptee is desired, the new name.

(7) That all consents required by section 2711 (relating to consents necessary to adoption) are attached as exhibits or the basis upon which such consents are not required.

(8) That it is the desire of the petitioner or the petitioners that the relationship of parent and child be established between the petitioner or petitioners and the adoptee.

(9) If no birth certificate or certification of registration of birth can be obtained, a statement of the reason therefor and an allegation of the efforts made to obtain the certificate with a request that the court establish a date and place of birth at the adoption hearing on the basis of the evidence presented.

§ 2702. Exhibits.

The petition shall have attached to it the following exhibits:

(1) The consent or consents required by section 2711 (relating to consents necessary to adoption).

(2) If not already filed with a report of an intermediary, the exhibits enumerated in section 2534 (relating to exhibits).

SUBCHAPTER B CONSENTS

Sec.

2711. Consents necessary to adoption.

2712. Consents not naming adopting parents.

2713. When other consents not required.

2714. When consent of parent not required.

§ 2711. Consents necessary to adoption.

(a) General rule.—Except as otherwise provided in this part, consent to an adoption shall be required of the following:

(1) The adoptee, if over 12 years of age.

(2) The spouse of the adopting parent, unless they join in the adoption petition.

(3) The parents or surviving parent of an adoptee who has not reached the age of 18 years.

(4) The guardian of an incompetent adoptee.

(5) The guardian of the person of an adoptee under the age of 18 years, if any there be, or of the person or persons having the custody of the adoptee, if any such person can be found, whenever the adoptee has no parent whose consent is required.

(b) Husband of natural mother.—The consent of the husband of the mother shall not be necessary if, after notice to the husband, it is proved to the satisfaction of the court by evidence, including testimony of the natural mother, that the husband of the natural mother is not the natural father of the child. Absent such proof, the consent of a former husband of the natural mother shall be required if he was the husband of the natural mother at any time within one year prior to the birth of the adoptee.

§ 2712. Consents not naming adopting parents.

A consent to a proposed adoption meeting all the requirements of this part but which does not name or otherwise identify the adopting parent or parents shall be valid if it contains a statement that it is voluntarily executed without disclosure of the name or other identification of the adopting parent or parents.

§ 2713. When other consents not required.

The court, in its discretion, may dispense with consents other than that of the adoptee to a petition for adoption when:

(1) the adoptee is over 18 years of age; or

(2) the adoptee is under 18 years of age and has no parent living whose consent is required.

§ 2714. When consent of parent not required.

Consent of a parent to adoption shall not be required if a decree of termination with regard to such parent has been entered. When parental rights have not previously been terminated, the court may find that consent of a parent of the adoptee is not required if, after notice and hearing as prescribed in section 2513 (relating to hearing), the court finds that grounds exist for involuntary termination under section 2511 (relating to grounds for involuntary termination).

SUBCHAPTER C HEARINGS

Sec.

2721. Notice of hearing.

2722. Place of hearing.

2723. Attendance at hearing.

2724. Testimony and investigation.

2725. Religious belief.

§ 2721. Notice of hearing.

The court shall fix a time and place for hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be given to all persons whose consents are required and to such other persons as the court shall direct. Notice to the parent or parents of the adoptee, if required, may be given by the intermediary or someone acting on his behalf. Notice shall be by personal service or by registered mail to the last known address of the person to be notified or in such other manner as the court shall direct.

§ 2722. Place of hearing.

The hearing shall be private or in open court as the court deems appropriate.

§ 2723. Attendance at hearing.

The adopting parent or parents and the adoptee must appear at and, if required, testify at the hearing under oath unless the court determines their presence is unnecessary. In addition, the court may require the appearance and testimony of all persons whose consents are required by this part and representatives of agencies or individuals who have acted as an intermediary if their appearance or testimony would be necessary or helpful to the court.

§ 2724. Testimony and investigation.

(a) Testimony.—The court shall hear testimony in support of the petition and such additional testimony as it deems necessary to inform it as to the desirability of the proposed adoption. It shall require a disclosure of all moneys and consideration paid or to be paid to any person or institution in connection with the adoption.

(b) Investigation.—The court may request that an investigation be made by a person or public agency or, with its consent, a voluntary agency, specifically designated by the court to verify the statements of the petition and such other facts that will give the court full knowledge of the desirability of the proposed adoption, or the court may rely in whole or in part upon a report earlier made under section 2535 (relating to investigation). In any case, the age, sex, health, social and economic status or racial, ethnic or religious background of the child or adopting parents shall not preclude an adoption but the court shall decide its desirability on the basis of the physical, mental and emotional needs and welfare of the child.

(c) Payment of investigation costs.—The court may establish a procedure for the payment of investigation costs by the petitioners or by such other persons as the court may direct.

§ 2725. Religious belief.

Whenever possible, the adopting parents shall be of the same religious faith as the natural parents of the adoptee. No person shall be denied the benefits of this part because of a religious belief in the use of spiritual means or prayer for healing.

CHAPTER 29
DECREES AND RECORDS

Sec.

- 2901. Time of entry of decree of adoption.
- 2902. Requirements and form of decree of adoption.
- 2903. Retention of parental status.
- 2904. Name of adoptee.
- 2905. Impounding of proceedings.
- 2906. Docket entries.
- 2907. Certificate of adoption.
- 2908. Foreign decree of adoption.

§ 2901. Time of entry of decree of adoption.

Unless the court for cause shown determines otherwise, no decree of adoption shall be entered unless the adoptee has resided with the petitioner for at least six months prior thereto or, in lieu of such residence, the adoptee is at least 18 years of age or is related by blood or marriage to the petitioner.

§ 2902. Requirements and form of decree of adoption.

(a) General rule.—If satisfied that the statements made in the petition are true, that the needs and welfare of the person proposed to be adopted will be promoted by the adoption and that all requirements of this part have been met, the court shall enter a decree so finding and directing that the person proposed to be adopted shall have all the rights of a child and heir of the adopting parent or parents and shall be subject to the duties of a child to him or them.

(b) Withdrawal or dismissal of petition.—In any case in which the petition is withdrawn or dismissed, the court shall enter an appropriate order in regard to the custody of the child.

§ 2903. Retention of parental status.

Whenever a parent consents to the adoption of his child by his spouse, the parent-child relationship between him and his child shall remain whether or not he is one of the petitioners in the adoption proceeding.

§ 2904. Name of adoptee.

If requested by the petitioners, the decree may provide that the adoptee shall assume the name of the adopting parent or parents and any given first or middle names that may be chosen.

§ 2905. Impounding of proceedings.

All petitions, exhibits, reports, notes of testimony, decrees, and other papers pertaining to any proceeding under this part or former statutes relating to adoption shall be kept in the files of the court as a permanent record thereof and withheld from inspection except on an order of court granted upon cause shown. Any report required to be filed under sections 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt) and 2535 (relating to investigation) shall be made available to parties to an

adoption proceeding only after all identifying names and addresses in the report have been extirpated by the court.

§ 2906. Docket entries.

Upon the filing of any decree under this part, the clerk shall enter on the docket an entry showing the date of the decree. Information identifying the natural parents shall not be entered on the docket.

§ 2907. Certificate of adoption.

The clerk shall issue to the adopting parent or parents a certificate reciting that the court has granted the adoption. The certificate shall not disclose the name of any natural parent or the original name of the person adopted. The certificate shall be accepted in any legal proceedings in this Commonwealth as evidence of the fact that the adoption has been granted.

§ 2908. Foreign decree of adoption.

When a decree of adoption of a minor is made or entered in conformity with the laws of another state or a foreign country whereby a child is adopted by a resident of this Commonwealth, a copy of the final decree, properly authenticated, may be filed with the clerk in the county of residence of the adopting parents. The decree and such other documents as may be filed therewith shall be kept in the files of the court as a permanent record thereof and shall be withheld from inspection except on order of court granted upon cause shown. Upon the filing of a foreign decree of adoption, the clerk shall enter upon the docket an entry showing the foreign court, identification of the proceedings therein and the date of the decree. Information identifying the natural parents shall not be required.

PART IX MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Chapter

83. Legitimacy of Children

CHAPTER 83 LEGITIMACY OF CHILDREN

Sec.

8302. Acknowledgment of paternity.

8303. Claim of paternity.

§ 8302. Acknowledgment of paternity.

The father of a child born to an unmarried woman may file with the Department of Health on forms prescribed by it an acknowledgment of paternity of the child which shall include the consent under oath of the mother of the child. The department shall, upon receipt of the acknowledgment, proceed as provided in section 603(a) of the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), known as the "Vital Statistics Law of 1953," and the father shall have all the rights and duties as to the child which he would have had if he had been married to the mother

at the time of the child's birth and the child shall have all the rights and duties as to the father which he would have had if the father had been married to the mother at the time of his birth. The acknowledgment may also provide for the assumption by the child of the father's surname or other name desired by the parents.

§ 8303. Claim of paternity.

If the mother of the child fails or refuses to join in the acknowledgment of paternity provided for in section 8302 (relating to acknowledgment of paternity), the Department of Health shall index it as a claim of paternity. The filing and indexing of a claim of paternity shall not confer upon the putative father any rights as to the child except that the putative father shall be entitled to notice of any proceeding brought to terminate any parental rights as to the child.

Section 2. The following acts and parts of acts are repealed:

Act of July 9, 1935 (P.L.612, No.214), entitled "An act validating adoptions in courts of record of the Commonwealth."

Section 4, act of July 30, 1947 (P.L.1180, No.491), entitled "An act to further amend the act, approved the fourth day of April, one thousand nine hundred twenty-five (Pamphlet Laws 127), entitled 'An act relating to Adoption,' further providing for the jurisdiction of adoption proceedings, the contents of petitions, necessary consents, hearings and decrees; and validating certain adoptions."

Section 6, act of August 26, 1953 (P.L.1411, No.400), entitled "An act to further amend the act, approved the fourth day of April, one thousand nine hundred twenty-five (Pamphlet Laws 127), entitled 'An act relating to Adoption,' by defining certain terms; imposing powers and duties on the Department of Welfare; providing for appeals; requiring reports concerning receiving children for adoption and investigation thereof; changing contents of petition for adoption; providing procedure for the voluntary relinquishment of and for the finding of abandonment of certain children; eliminating certain consents to adoption; and further providing for hearings and investigatory powers of the court."

Act of July 24, 1970 (P.L.620, No.208), known as the "Adoption Act."

Section 3. This act shall apply to all proceedings begun after the effective date of this act. Proceedings in progress and not completed before the effective date of this act may be amended with leave of court after January 1, 1981 to conform to this act; otherwise, the proceedings shall be carried to their conclusion under the act of July 24, 1970 (P.L.620, No.208), known as the "Adoption Act."

Section 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 1981.

APPROVED—The 15th day of October, A. D. 1980.

DICK THORNBURGH