

**R012-0708**

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING PRE-PLACEMENT HOME**  
20     **STUDIES BEFORE FINALIZED ADOPTION**

30     **WHEREAS:**     Adoption has become a constant in Maryland life to pursue the best  
40                     interest of the child but there have been cases of abuse that need  
50                     preventative measures.

60     **WHEREAS:**     There is no current legislation in Maryland concerning home  
70                     studies, pre-adoption home investigation, and adopted child abuse  
80                     cases have been documented.

90     **WHEREAS:**     Pennsylvania has legislation making it required for several home  
100                    studies to occur before the finalization of an adoption. This  
110                    legislation has led to a decrease of documented child abuse cases  
120                    because the further investigation of possible adopters led to many  
130                    disqualifications.

140    **WHEREAS:**     Many children on the lists for adoption have physical or mental  
150                    handicaps, sexual abuse history, or a variety of other problems.  
160                    This lack of knowledge has led to the frustration of adopters, and  
170                    in some cases have led to the abuse of the child.

180    **WHEREAS:**     The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect  
190                    (NCCAN) reported more than three million children as victims of  
200                    abuse and neglect in 2006.

210    **WHEREAS:**     Adoption Policy and Special Needs Children reported that 1% of  
220                    nation abuse reports come from adoption families, but is more  
230                    prevalent in states with no legislation concerning home studies.

240    **WHEREAS:**     NCCAN reported children 0-3 years of age to be more likely to be  
250                    abused, which is also the age group most likely to be adopted.

260    **WHEREAS:**     NCCAN reported 79% of children who are killed due to abuse are  
270                    four years or younger.

280    **WHEREAS:**     In one-third of previously abused adults, they are likely to continue  
290                    the cycle of abuse with regards to their own children.

300    **WHEREAS:**     NCCAN also reported that 36.7% of women and 14.4% of men  
310                    in prison were abused as children.

320    **WHEREAS:**     NCCAN reported: "Children who experience child abuse &  
330                    neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more  
340                    likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit  
350                    violent crime."

360    **THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature  
370                    recommends the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation to  
380                    make home studies within Maryland a required process of  
390                    adoption.

400    **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This legislation includes a waiver by the  
410                    court system, unless there is suspicion of abuse of adopter, home

420 studies not to be necessary for adoption cases with previous  
430 relationships of the adoptee such as step-parent, intra-family  
440 adoptions, or the case if the adoptee is over the age of 18.

450 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** All records of home studies will be kept private, between the  
460 adoption agencies and the court system.

470 **MANDATES:** Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland  
480 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President, Maryland State Senate  
490 Michael E. Busch, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates  
500 Edward J. Kasemeyer, Majority Leader, Maryland State Senate  
510 David R. Brinkly, Minority Leader, Maryland State Senate  
520 Kumar P. Barve, Majority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates  
530 Anthony J. O'Donnell, Minority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates

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