

No. 70

AN ACT

SB 450

Amending the act of April 4, 1925 (P.L.127), entitled "An act relating to Adoption," authorizing the spouse of a married person to adopt a child of his spouse.

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

Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 1, act of April 4, 1925 (P.L.127), entitled "An act relating to Adoption," amended August 26, 1953 (P.L.1411), is amended to read:

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., Definitions; Approval of Agencies and Institutions; Appeals; Report of Placement and Contents of Petition for Adoption.—* * *

(d) It shall be lawful for any adult person desirous of adopting any person, *or the spouse, even though a minor, of a married person desirous of adopting that person's child*, either a minor or an adult, as his or her heir or as one of his or her heirs, to present his or her petition to the court of the county where he or she may be a resident, or in the county in which the person to be adopted is a resident, upon allowance by the court in that county, or upon allowance by the court in the county in which is located the approved agency or institution, or any of their branch offices, which placed the person for adoption, declaring such desire and that he or she will perform all the duties of a parent to such person. Such petition shall also set forth the name, color, age, date, and place of birth, places of residence since birth, and religious affiliation of the person proposed to be adopted, and whether the person proposed to be adopted is heir to property or assets of any sort through his or her natural parent or parents; name and address of intermediary; the name, residence, marital status, color, age, occupation and religious affiliation of the adopting parent or parents; the name, color, age and place of residence of each of the natural parents or of the surviving parent or of any other person whose consent to the proposed adoption is necessary as hereinafter provided, and in those cases, where abandonment is alleged, a statement that said abandonment has continued for a period of at least six months. Whenever possible, the petitioners shall be of the same religious faith as the natural parents of the child to be adopted. No person shall be denied the benefits of this act because of a religious belief in the use of spiritual means or prayer for healing. In those cases where parental rights have been legally terminated, either through voluntary relinquishment or by the finding of abandonment in court, there shall be embodied in the petition a statement setting forth (1) the court, term and number of such proceedings, (2) that such person proposed for adoption is in the custody of an approved agency

or institution whose consent to the adoption is attached to the petition. In addition such petition shall embody or have attached thereto the consents in writing of the person or persons whose consent to the proposed adoption is necessary as hereinafter provided. A birth certificate or certification of registration of birth of the person proposed to be adopted shall be attached to the petition for adoption. If no birth certificate or certification of registration of birth can be obtained it shall be so stated in the petition, with a request that the court, on the basis of the evidence, shall establish a date and place of birth in the adoption hearing.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 18th day of March, A. D. 1970.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 70.



Robert J. Kelley
Secretary of the Commonwealth.