

## CHAPTER 666

(House Bill 267)

AN ACT concerning

### **Family Law – Child Abduction by Relative**

FOR the purpose of altering the elements of certain crimes involving the abducting, detaining, or harboring of a certain child by a relative to require a certain intent; altering certain penalties for certain crimes involving the abducting, detaining, or harboring of a certain child by a relative under certain circumstances; and generally relating to child abduction.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 9–304, 9–305, and 9–307

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article – Family Law**

9–304.

If a child is under the age of 16 years, a relative who knows that another person is the lawful custodian of the child may not, **WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE LAWFUL CUSTODIAN OF THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD:**

(1) abduct, take, or carry away the child from the lawful custodian to a place within this State;

(2) having acquired lawful possession of the child, detain the child within this State for more than 48 hours after the lawful custodian demands that the child be returned;

(3) harbor or hide the child within this State, knowing that possession of the child was obtained by another relative in violation of this section; or

(4) act as an accessory to an act prohibited by this section.

9–305.

(a) If a child is under the age of 16 years, a relative who knows that another person is the lawful custodian of the child may not, **WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE LAWFUL CUSTODIAN OF THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD:**

(1) abduct, take, or carry away the child from the lawful custodian to a place in another state;

(2) having acquired lawful possession of the child, detain the child in another state for more than 48 hours after the lawful custodian demands that the child be returned;

(3) harbor or hide the child in another state knowing that possession of the child was obtained by another relative in violation of this section; or

(4) act as an accessory to an act prohibited by this section.

(b) If a child is under the age of 16 years, a relative who knows that another person is the lawful custodian of the child may not, **WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE LAWFUL CUSTODIAN OF THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD:**

(1) abduct, take, or carry away the child from the lawful custodian to a place that is outside of the United States or a territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(2) having acquired lawful possession of the child, detain the child in a place that is outside of the United States or a territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for more than 48 hours after the lawful custodian demands that the child be returned;

(3) harbor or hide the child in a place that is outside of the United States or a territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico knowing that possession of the child was obtained by another relative in violation of this section; or

(4) act as an accessory to an act prohibited by this section.

9–307.

(a) A person who violates any provision of § 9–304 of this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$250 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days.

(b) If the child is out of the custody of the lawful custodian for not more than 30 days, a person who violates any provision of § 9–305(a) of this subtitle is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding [\$250] **\$1,000** or imprisonment not exceeding [30 days] **1 YEAR**, or both.

(c) If the child is out of the custody of the lawful custodian for more than 30 days, a person who violates any provision of § 9–305(a) of this subtitle is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding [~~\$1,000~~] **\$2,500** or imprisonment not exceeding [~~1 year~~] **3 YEARS**, or both.

(d) A person who violates any provision of § 9–305(b) of this subtitle is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding [~~3~~] **5** years or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

**Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.**