

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# N I N E T Y - F I R S T    L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 372**

H. P. 591

House of Representatives, February 9, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mrs. Roberts of Westbrook.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-THREE

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### AN ACT Relating to Adoption of Children.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows :

**R. S., c. 80, § 36, amended.** Section 36 of chapter 80 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows :

**‘Sec. 36. Consent is required.** Before such petition is granted, written consent to such adoption must be given by the child, if of the age of 14 years, and by each of his living parents, if not hopelessly insane or intemperate; or, when a divorce has been decreed to either parent, written consent by the parent entitled to the custody of the child; or such consent by one parent, when, after such notice to the other parent as the judge deems proper and practicable, such other parent is considered by the judge unfit to have the custody of the child. If there are no such parents, or if the parents have abandoned the child and ceased to provide for its support, consent may be given by the legal guardian; if no such guardian, then by the next of kin in the state; if no such kin, then by some person appointed by the judge to act in the proceedings as the next friend of such child; if an illegitimate child, and under the age of 14 years, such consent may be given by the mother of such child. Provided, however, if only one of such parents have abandoned the child and ceased to provide for its support, consent may be given by the parent who has not abandoned said child.

The parents or surviving parent of such child, or the mother if such child be illegitimate, with the approval of the judge of probate of ~~the any~~ county ~~in which such parent or parents reside or may be,~~ **within the state,** and after a determination by such judge of probate that a surrender and release is for the best interests of all parties, may surrender and release all parental rights in and to such child and the custody and control thereof to an incorporated and licensed ~~society, asylum,~~ **child placing agency** or home **in this state of which such child may be an inmate or ward,** or to the state department of health and welfare, for the purpose of enabling such incorporated society, ~~asylum~~ or home, or state department of health and welfare to have such child adopted by some suitable person, and its name changed when a change is desirable, and the child made an heir-at-law under the provisions of this chapter. The effect of this surrender and release shall be fully explained by the judge of probate to the parent or parents executing the same. The aforementioned surrender and release approved as aforesaid shall be filed with the petition for adoption of said child in the probate court. In such cases the consent to adoption hereinbefore provided for may be given by such incorporated society, ~~asylum~~ or home, or state department of health and welfare.'