

# HOUSE BILL 943

D4  
HB 476/21 – JUD

2lr2632

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By: **Delegate Shoemaker**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Grandparent Visitation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which an equity court may grant  
4 visitation rights to a grandparent of a child; and generally relating to visitation.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – Family Law  
7 Section 9–102  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

### Article – Family Law

12 9–102.

13 An equity court may:

14 (1) consider a petition for reasonable visitation of a grandchild by a  
15 grandparent; and

16 (2) [if the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child,] grant  
17 visitation rights to the grandparent **IF:**

18 (I) **BOTH OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS CONSENT TO**  
19 **VISITATION;**

20 (II) **ONE OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS CONSENTS TO**  
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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 VISITATION AND THE OTHER PARENT IS UNABLE TO CONSENT TO VISITATION;

2 (III) BOTH OF THE CHILD'S LIVING PARENTS ARE UNABLE TO  
3 CONSENT TO VISITATION; OR

4 (IV) EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST THAT DEMONSTRATE  
5 CURRENT OR FUTURE DETRIMENT TO THE CHILD ABSENT VISITATION WITH THE  
6 GRANDPARENT.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2022.