

CHAPTER 1177  
MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION RECORDS

S. F. 44

AN ACT to provide that certain records required to be filed in a dissolution action shall not be public records, and providing a penalty.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section five hundred ninety-eight point twenty-six (598.26), Code 1977, is amended by striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

598.26 RECORD--IMPOUNDING--VIOLATION INDICTABLE. The record and evidence in each case of marriage dissolution shall be kept pursuant to the following provisions:

1. Until a decree of dissolution has been entered, the record and evidence shall be closed to all but the court and its officers. No officer or other person shall permit a copy of any of the testimony, or pleading, or the substance thereof, to be made available to any person other than a party to the action or a party's attorney. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit publication of the original notice as provided by the rules of civil procedure.

2. The court shall, in the absence of objection by another party, grant a motion by a party to require the sealing of an answer to an interrogatory or of a financial statement filed pursuant to section five hundred ninety-eight point thirteen (598.13) of the Code. The court may in its discretion grant a motion by a party to require the sealing of any other information which is part of the record of the case except for court orders, decrees and any judgments. If the court grants a motion to require the sealing of information in the case, the sealed information shall not thereafter be made available to any person other than a party to the action or a party's attorney except upon order of the court for good cause shown.

3. If the action is dismissed, judgment for costs shall be entered in the judgment docket and lien index. The clerk shall maintain a separate docket for dissolution of marriage actions.

4. Violation of the provisions of this section shall be a serious misdemeanor.

Sec. 2. Chapter one thousand two hundred forty-five (1245),

Acts of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly, 1976 Session, chapter four (4), is amended by striking section four hundred eighty-two (482).

Approved June 2, 1978

## CHAPTER 1178

### ADOPTION BY STEPPARENT

H. F. 2223

AN ACT to provide that a separate termination of parental rights proceeding shall not be required in cases of stepparent adoptions.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section six hundred point three (600.3), subsection two (2), Code 1977, as amended by Acts of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly, 1977 Session, chapter one hundred forty (140), section two (2), is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

2. An adoption petition shall not be filed until a termination of parental rights has been accomplished except in the following cases:

a. No termination of parental rights is required if the person to be adopted is an adult.

b. If the stepparent of the child to be adopted is the adoption petitioner, the parent-child relationship between the child and the parent who is not the spouse of the petitioner may be terminated as part of the adoption proceeding by the filing of that parent's consent to the adoption.

For the purposes of this subsection, a consent to adopt recognized by the courts of another jurisdiction in the United States and obtained from a resident of that jurisdiction shall be accepted in this state in lieu of a termination of parental rights proceeding.

Sec. 2. Section six hundred point three (600.3), Code 1977, as amended by Acts of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly, 1977 Session, chapter one hundred forty (140), section two (2), is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. Any adoption proceeding pending on or completed prior to the effective date of this Act is hereby legalized and validated to the extent that it is consistent with this Act.

Approved June 14, 1978