

fare] *social services* shall promptly interview the private party who has made a report of possible violations of the provisions of this section, to determine if there is probable cause to believe that the child (or children) in question has in fact sustained physical injury as a result of abuse, as by malicious beating, striking, or other such cruel or inhumane treatment. If the local department of [welfare] *social services* determines that there is probable cause to so believe that a violation of this section has been committed, then the local department of [welfare] *social services* shall proceed with the investigation required under subsection (e) hereof.

(e) The local department of [welfare] *social services* shall make a thorough investigation promptly upon receiving a report of probable violation of this section, and the primary purpose of the investigation shall be the protection of the welfare of the child or children. The investigation shall include a determination of the nature, extent and cause or causes of the injuries, the identity of the person or persons responsible therefor, the name, age and condition of other children in the same household, an evaluation of the parents and the home environment, and all other facts or matters found to be pertinent. The local department of [welfare] *social services* shall render a complete written report of its findings to the local State's attorney within five (5) working days of the completion of the investigation, which shall be within ten (10) days of the receipt of the oral or written report first disclosing to the local department of [welfare] *social services* the existence of a possible violation of this section. Upon request by the local department of [welfare] *social services*, the local State's attorney and other appropriate law enforcement or social agencies having jurisdiction shall assist in the investigation.

(f) Action to be taken by local [welfare] department of *social services*, State's attorney, etc.—Based on their findings, the local [welfare] department of *social services* shall render the appropriate service in the best interests of the child, including, when indicated, petitioning the juvenile court in behalf of the child for the added protection to the child which either commitment or custody would provide. The local State's attorney and other appropriate law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction shall take such lawful action as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

(h) The State Department of [Welfare] *Social Services* shall maintain a central registry of cases reported under this section, which data shall be furnished by the respective local [welfare boards] *departments of social services* throughout the State of Maryland and this data shall be at the disposal of [public welfare,] *local departments of social services*, social agencies, public health agencies, law enforcement agencies, as well as licensed health practitioners and health and education institutions licensed or regulated by the State of Maryland.

ARTICLE 30

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY BLIND

11.

As used in this subtitle "State Department" means the State Department of [Public Welfare] *Social Services*, created under Article