

department of social services the local State's attorney [and other appropriate law-enforcement or social agencies having jurisdiction] shall assist in the investigation.

[(f)] (G) Based on their findings, the local 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.

[(g)] (H) Any PERSON, INCLUDING A health practitioner, [education] EDUCATOR, [health, mental health,] or social worker or law-enforcement officer, participating in the making of a GOOD FAITH report pursuant to this section or participating in AN INVESTIGATION OR IN a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom shall in so doing be immune from any civil liability OR CRIMINAL PENALTY that might otherwise be incurred or imposed [in connection with such report] AS A RESULT THEREOF.

[(h)] (I) The State Department of Social Services shall AND EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MAY maintain a central registry of cases reported under this section, which data shall be furnished by the respective local departments of social services throughout the State of Maryland and this data shall be at the disposal of 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 35

4.

In the trial of all indictments, complaints and other proceedings against persons charged with the commission of crimes and offenses, and in all proceedings in the nature of criminal proceedings in any court of this State, and before an officer acting judicially, the person so charged shall at his own request, but not otherwise, be deemed a competent witness; but the neglect or refusal of any such person to testify shall not create any presumption against him. In all criminal proceedings the husband or wife of the accused party shall be competent to testify; but in no case, civil or criminal, shall any husband or wife be competent to disclose any confidential communication made by the one to the other during the marriage, nor shall the husband or wife be compelled to testify as an adverse party or witness in any criminal proceeding involving his or her spouse, except when such proceedings involves the abuse of a child under [sixteen] EIGHTEEN years pursuant to [§ 11A] 35A of Article 27 of this Code, as amended from time to time; and in suits, actions, bills or other proceedings instituted in consequence of adultery, or for the purpose of obtaining a divorce, or for damages for breach of promise of marriage, no verdict shall be permitted to be recovered, nor shall any judgment or decree be entered upon the testimony of the plaintiff alone; but in all such cases testimony in corroboration of that of the plaintiff shall be necessary; but in suits, actions, bills or other proceedings instituted for the purpose of obtaining a divorce a vinculo matrimonii upon the grounds of husband and wife having voluntarily lived separate and apart, without any cohabitation for eighteen consecutive months, with such separation being beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation, where both husband and wife prior to the filing of the bill of complaint upon such grounds for