

the time the violation occurred.]

35A.

(b) Wherever used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1. "Health practitioner" includes any physician, surgeon, psychologist, dentist and any other person authorized to engage in the practice of healing, any resident or intern in any of these professions, and any registered or licensed practical nurse attending or treating a child in the absence of a practitioner of any of these professions.

2. "Child" means any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

3. "Local department of social services" and "local State's attorney" refer to the jurisdiction in which the child lives, or where the abuse is alleged to have taken place, if different.

4. "Educator or social worker" shall mean any teacher, counselor or other professional employee of any school, public, parochial or private, or any caseworker or social worker or other professional employee of any public or private social, educational, health or social service agency or any probation or parole officer or any professional employee of a correctional institution.

5. "Law-enforcement officer" shall mean any police officer or State trooper in the service of the State of Maryland or any county or municipality thereof.

6. "Law-enforcement agency" shall mean any police department, bureau or force of any county or Baltimore City, any police department, bureau or force of any incorporated municipality or the Maryland State Police.

7. "Abuse" shall mean any: (A) physical injury or injuries sustained by a child as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of malicious act or acts by any parent, adoptive parent or other person who has the permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a minor child (B) any sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

8. "Sexual abuse" shall mean any act or acts involving sexual molestation or exploitation, including but not limited to incest, rape[, carnal knowledge], OR SEXUAL OFFENSE IN ANY DEGREE, sodomy or unnatural or perverted sexual practices on a child by any parent, adoptive parent or other person who has the permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a minor child.