

Proceedings, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

[10-401.

The right of the people to be secure against unreasonable interception of telephonic and telegraphic communications may not be violated. The interception and divulgence of a private communication by any person not a party thereto is contrary to the public policy of the State, and may not be permitted except by court order in unusual circumstances to protect the people. It is further declared to be the public policy of the State that detection of the guilty does not justify investigative methods which infringe upon the liberties of the innocent.]

[10-402.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in § 10-403 and subsection (c) of this section, a person may not obtain or attempt to obtain the whole or any part of a telephonic or telegraphic communication to which the person is not a participant by means of a device, contrivance, machine, or apparatus, whether electrical, mechanical, or manual unless consent is given by the participants.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in § 10-403 and subsection (c) of this section, no person may tamper with the wires, connections, boxes, fuses, circuits, lines, or other equipment or facilities of a telephone or telegraph company over which messages are transmitted with the intent to obtain the contents of a telephonic or telegraphic communication to which the person is not a participant.

(c) The prohibition of this section does not apply to any officer, employee, or agent of a telephone or telegraph company who performs an act prohibited in this subtitle for the purpose of construction, maintenance, or conduct of the company's telephonic or telegraphic communications service, facilities, or equipment.]

[10-403.

(a) An ex parte order for the interception of telephonic and telegraphic communications may be issued by a judge of a circuit court, the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, or the District Court upon the verified application of the Attorney General or a State's Attorney setting forth fully the facts and circumstances upon which the application is based and stating that:

(1) There are reasonable grounds to believe