

~~HOWEVER, A CHILD MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED NEGLECTED FOR THE SOLE REASON THAT THE CHILD IS RECEIVING NONMEDICAL REMEDIAL CARE AND TREATMENT RECOGNIZED BY STATE LAW IN LIEU OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.~~

(E) "HEALTH PRACTITIONER" INCLUDES ANY PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, PSYCHOLOGIST, CHIROPRACTOR, OSTEOPATH, MEDICAL ASSISTANT, 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.

(F) "LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES HAVING JURISDICTION IN THE SUBDIVISION WHERE THE CHILD LIVES, OR IF DIFFERENT, WHERE THE NEGLECT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

(G) "EDUCATOR OR SOCIAL WORKER" MEANS 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, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICE OR JUVENILE SERVICE AGENCY, INSTITUTION OR LICENSED FACILITY OR ANY PROBATION OR PAROLE OFFICER OR ANY PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE OF A CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

(H) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" MEANS ANY POLICE OFFICER OR STATE TROOPER IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND OR ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY OF THE STATE.

(I) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" INCLUDES ANY STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

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(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES AS ITS LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WHO ARE NEGLECTED BY MANDATING THAT HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, EDUCATORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REPORT SUSPECTED NEGLECT; BY EXTENDING IMMUNITY TO THOSE WHO REPORT, IN GOOD FAITH, INCIDENTS OF NEGLECT; BY REQUIRING TIMELY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE REPORTS; AND BY REQUIRING THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO RENDER THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD.

(B) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE THAT RELATE TO REPORTING OF CHILD NEGLECT ARE IN ADDITION TO AND NOT IN SUBSTITUTION OF PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 27, SECTION 35A, THAT RELATE TO REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE.

(C) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE ARE IN ADDITION TO AND NOT IN SUBSTITUTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF "SUBTITLE 8. JUVENILE CAUSES" OF TITLE 3, OF THE COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS ARTICLE OF THE CODE.