

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 88A - Social Services Administration

102.

As used in this subtitle, "battered spouse" means an individual who [has] IS IN IMMEDIATE FEAR OF OR HAS received deliberate, severe, and demonstrable physical injury from a ~~[-spouse-]~~ PERSON with whom he or she shares a house.

103.

The Secretary of Human Resources shall establish and maintain a model shelter home located in a major population center of the State. The model shelter shall be located so as to facilitate the use of the shelter by battered spouses and their children living in the region surrounding the shelter. The purpose of the model shelter shall be to house, care for, and rehabilitate battered spouses and their children. The shelter [homes] HOME shall be designed and staffed as follows:

(a) ~~Each~~ THE shelter shall provide battered spouses and their children with a temporary residence and necessary counselling [to make an orderly transfer from the home with the abusing spouse to their own independent housing].

(b) The Social Services Administration shall supervise, direct, control and manage the shelter [homes] HOME.

(c) The Social Services Administration shall establish standards of care and admission policies. The Administration shall monitor the operation of the shelter home and annually evaluate its effectiveness.

(d) The shelter home is subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the Social Services Administration. The home shall accept, from the police and other referral sources in the community, battered spouses and their children for temporary shelter. Housing may be provided under this subtitle only if the applicant for housing is a resident of Maryland at the time application for housing is made.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1979.

Approved May 29, 1979.

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