

(G)--"LAW--ENFORCEMENT--OFFICER"--MEANS--A--PERSON--WHO--IN HIS--OFFICIAL--CAPACITY--IS--AUTHORIZED--BY--LAW--TO--MAKE--ARRESTS AND--WHO--IS--A--MEMBER--OF--A--LAW--ENFORCEMENT--AGENCY.

4-502-

(A)--A--PERSON--MAY--SEEK--RELIEF--FOR--HIMSELF--OR--ANY HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER--WHO--IS--A--MINOR--OR--A--HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER--UNDER A--DISABILITY--BY--FILING--A--PETITION--WITH--THE--COURT--ALLEGING ABUSE--BY--ANOTHER--HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER.

(B)--THE--FORM--OF--THE--PETITION--SHALL--BE--PROMULGATED--BY THE--COURT--OF--APPEALS--BY--RULE--THE--FORM--OF--THE--PETITION SHALL--BE--SIMPLE--SO--AS--TO--FACILITATE--FILING--IN--PROPER--PERSON--THE--PETITION--SHALL--BE--UNDER--OATH--AND--SHALL--CONTAIN INFORMATION--AS--TO--WHETHER--THE--PETITIONER--KNOWS--OF--ANY--PRIOR OR--PENDING--ACTION--BETWEEN--THE--PARTIES--OR--IN--ANY--COURT.

(C)--THE--COST--OF--FILING--THE--PETITION--MAY--BE--WAIVED--OR DEFERRED--BY--THE--COURT--IN--ADVANCE--ON--A--SHOWING--BY--AFFIDAVIT THAT--THE--PETITIONER--IS:

(1)--INDIGENT--OR

(2)--THAT--BECAUSE--OF--THE--CIRCUMSTANCES--THE PETITIONER--OTHERWISE--ABLE--TO--PAY--IS--UNABLE--TO--PAY--THE--COST AT--THE--TIME--OF--FILING.

COSTS--MAY--BE--SUBSEQUENTLY--WAIVED--OR--ASSESSED AGAINST--THE--PETITIONER--OR--THE--ABUSING--HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER.

(D)--THE--COURT--MAY--IN--ITS--DISCRETION--ORDER--THE CONSOLIDATION--OF--ANY--CIVIL--ACTION--PENDING--BETWEEN--THE PARTIES--IN--ACCORDANCE--WITH--THE--MARYLAND--RULES.

4-503-

(A)--IF--A--PETITION--IS--FILED--UNDER--THIS--SUBTITLE--AND--THE COURT--DETERMINES--THAT--THE--PETITIONER--HAS--DEMONSTRATED--A SUBSTANTIAL--LIKELIHOOD--OF--IMMEDIATE--AND--PRESENT--DANGER--OF ABUSE--THE--COURT--MAY--ENTER--A--TEMPORARY--EX--PARTE--ORDER--TO PROTECT--THE--PETITIONER--OR--ANOTHER--HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER--FROM ABUSE--THE--ORDER--SHALL--BE--SERVED--IMMEDIATELY--ON--THE HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER--NAMED--IN--THE--PETITION--BY--A--LAW--ENFORCEMENT OFFICER--AND--THAT--HOUSEHOLD--MEMBER--SHALL--HAVE--AN--OPPORTUNITY TO--BE--HEARD--ON--THE--QUESTION--OF--CONTINUING--THE--TEMPORARY ORDER--THIS--HEARING--SHALL--BE--HELD--NOT--LATER--THAN--5--DAYS AFTER--THE--TEMPORARY--ORDER--IS--ENTERED.

(B)--IF--A--TEMPORARY--ORDER--IS--NOT--ISSUED--A--HEARING SHALL--BE--HELD--WITHIN--10--DAYS--OF--THE--FILING--OF--THE--PETITION.

(C)--IF--THE--COURT--DETERMINES--BY--A--PREPONDERANCE--OF--THE EVIDENCE--THAT--THE--ALLEGED--ABUSE--HAS--OCCURRED--THE--COURT--MAY GRANT--A--PROTECTIVE--ORDER--OR--APPROVE--A--CONSENT--AGREEMENT--TO STOP--THE--ABUSE--OF--THE--PETITIONER--OR--ANOTHER--HOUSEHOLD MEMBER--THE--RELIEF--GRANTED--MAY--INCLUDE--THE--FOLLOWING: