

BY adding to

Article 88A - Social Services Administration  
Section 6(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1982 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 72A - Parent and Child

4.

(d) "Neglected child" means a child who has suffered or is suffering significant physical or mental harm or injury as a result of conditions created by the absence of his parents, guardian, or custodian, or by the failure of that person to give proper care and attention to the child and his problems UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT INDICATE THAT THE CHILD'S HEALTH OR WELFARE IS HARMED OR THREATENED THEREBY. However, a child may not be considered to be neglected solely because he is receiving nonmedical remedial care and treatment recognized by State law in lieu of medical treatment.

6.

(c) [A person required to notify and report under the provisions of this section need not comply with the notification and reporting requirements of this section if:

(1) Efforts are being made or will be made to alleviate the conditions or circumstances which may cause the child to be considered a neglected child and it is concluded by the health practitioner, educator, social worker, or law enforcement agency or officer that these efforts will alleviate these conditions or circumstances; or

(2) The health practitioner, educator, social worker, or law enforcement agency or officer believes that the notification and reporting would inhibit the child, parent, guardian, or custodian from seeking assistance in the future and thereby be detrimental to the child's welfare.] ANY PERSON OTHER THAN A PERSON IN § 6(A) OR (B) OF THIS ARTICLE WHO HAS REASON--TO BELIEVE A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT A CHILD IS A NEGLECTED CHILD MAY FILE WITH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES A WRITTEN OR ORAL REPORT OF THE SUSPECTED NEGLECT GIVING THE INFORMATION SET OUT IN § 7 OF THIS ARTICLE.

9.

Any person [required to make a report pursuant to Section 6 of this article,] OTHER THAN A PERSON SUSPECTED OF CHILD NEGLECT who in good faith[,] makes or participates in making [such] a