

Section 35A(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 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 27 - Crimes and Punishments

35A.

(f) (1) The local department of social services or the appropriate law-enforcement agency as the case may be, or both, if jointly agreed upon, shall make a thorough investigation promptly upon receiving a report of probable violation of this section, and the primary purpose of the investigation shall be the protection of the welfare of the child or children. The investigation shall include a determination of the nature, extent and cause or causes of the abuse, if any; upon validation of the suspected abuse, the investigation shall then ascertain the identity of the person or persons responsible therefor, the name, age and condition of other children in the same household, an evaluation of the parents and the home environment, and all other facts or matters found to be pertinent. The local department of social services, and the appropriate law-enforcement agency if that agency participated in the investigation, shall render a complete written report of its findings to the local State's attorney within five (5) working days of the completion of the investigation, which shall be within ten (10) days of the receipt of the oral or written report first disclosing to the local department of social services the existence of a possible violation of this section. Upon request by the local department of social services, the local State's attorney shall assist in the investigation.

(2) IF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED UNDER SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION CONCLUDES THAT A REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE IS UNFOUNDED, ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES RULED OUT,~~ THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES SHALL EXPUNGE THE REPORT 5 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE REPORT IF NO FURTHER REPORTS ARE RECEIVED.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1983.

Approved May 31, 1983.
