

(ii) A nursing facility or visiting nurse service that is conducted only by or for adherents of a recognized BONA FIDE church or religious denomination ORGANIZATION, in accordance with tenets and practices that include reliance on treatment by spiritual means alone for healing; or

(iii) Any sheltered housing for the elderly, as defined in Article 70B, § 1 of the Code, that is certified by the Office on Aging, unless the housing provides for more than 11 individuals:

1. In one building that does not have more than one apartment unit; or

2. If there are apartment units in the building, in one apartment unit.

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(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) "Abuse" means [cruel or inhumane treatment that causes:

1. Any physical injury; or

2. Any neglect that is detrimental to physical or mental well-being; and] THE NONTHERAPEUTIC INFLICTION OF PHYSICAL PAIN OR INJURY, OR ANY PERSISTENT COURSE OF CONDUCT INTENDED TO PRODUCE OR RESULTING IN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS.

(ii) "Abuse" does not include the performance of an accepted medical procedure that a physician orders.

(3) "Law enforcement agency" means the Maryland State Police or a police agency of a county or municipal corporation.

[(4) "Nursing home" means a related institution that is classified as a nursing home.]

(b) (1) A person who believes that a resident of a [nursing home] RELATED INSTITUTION has been abused [promptly] shall report PROMPTLY the alleged abuse to an appropriate law enforcement agency [and to], the Secretary, OR THE OFFICE ON AGING.

(2) A report:

(i) May be oral or written; and

(ii) Shall contain as much information as the reporter is able to provide.