

Article - Family Law

5-712.

(a) (1) In this section[, “emergency”] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) “EMERGENCY medical treatment” means medical or surgical care rendered by a [physician or health care institution] PROVIDER IN A LABORATORY, HEALTH CARE FACILITY, OR CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER to a child under this section:

[(i)] 1. to relieve any urgent illness, INJURY, SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, or life-threatening health condition; or

[(ii)] 2. to determine the [nature] EXISTENCE, NATURE, or extent of any POSSIBLE abuse or neglect.

[(2)] (II) “Emergency medical treatment” [does not include:

(i) nonemergency outpatient treatment; or

(ii) periodic nonemergency health care] INCLUDES, IF APPROPRIATE, THE USE OF TELEMEDICINE TO ACHIEVE A TIMELY EXPERT DIAGNOSIS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

(3) “EXPERT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT CARE” MEANS THE DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT PROVIDED BY:

(I) A PHYSICIAN;

(II) A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM OR MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBER;

(III) A HEALTH CARE FACILITY; OR

(IV) A STAFF MEMBER OF A HEALTH CARE FACILITY WHO IS AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

(4) “MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM” MEANS A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS WITH EXPERTISE IN VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES WHO PROVIDE CONSULTATION, TREATMENT, AND PLANNING IN CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

(5) “PROVIDER” INCLUDES A PHYSICIAN, MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM OR MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBER, A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, A HEALTH CARE FACILITY, OR HEALTH CARE FACILITY PERSONNEL.

(b) Any [physician] PROVIDER who is licensed or authorized to practice [medicine] A PROFESSION in this State shall examine or treat any child, with or without the consent of the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian, to determine the nature and extent of any abuse or neglect to the child if the child is brought to the [physician] PROVIDER: