

(J) SEXUAL ABUSE.

(1) "SEXUAL ABUSE" MEANS ANY ACT THAT INVOLVES SEXUAL MOLESTATION OR EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD BY A PARENT OR OTHER PERSON WHO HAS PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY CARE OR CUSTODY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISION OF A CHILD.

(2) "SEXUAL ABUSE" INCLUDES:

(I) INCEST, RAPE, OR SEXUAL OFFENSE IN ANY DEGREE;

(II) SODOMY; AND

(III) UNNATURAL OR PERVERTED SEXUAL PRACTICES.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This subsection is new language derived without substantive change from former Article 27, § 35A(b)8.

In paragraph (1) of this subsection, the words "adoptive parent", which formerly followed "parent", are deleted as unnecessary.

Also in paragraph (1) of this subsection, "child" is substituted for the former words "minor child" in light of the definition of "child" in subsection (c) of this section.

Defined terms: "Child" § 5-901
"Includes" § 1-101

5-902. LEGISLATIVE POLICY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO PROTECT CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ABUSE BY:

(1) MANDATING THE REPORTING OF ANY SUSPECTED ABUSE;

(2) GIVING IMMUNITY TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO REPORTS, IN GOOD FAITH, A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF ABUSE;

(3) REQUIRING PROMPT INVESTIGATION OF EACH REPORTED SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF ABUSE; AND

(4) CAUSING IMMEDIATE, COOPERATIVE EFFORTS BY THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ABUSE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from the first sentence of former Article 27, § 35A.