

investigation within a certain period after receiving a report; requiring that certain agencies enter certain written agreements; requiring certain agencies responsible for investigating reports of child sexual abuse to implement certain joint investigatory procedures; requiring that the procedures include certain matters; and generally relating to investigations of child abuse by certain agencies.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law
Section 5-905
Annotated Code of Maryland
(As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 1) of the
Acts of the General Assembly of 1984)

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

Article - Family Law

5-905.

(a) (1) Promptly after receiving a report of suspected abuse, the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency, as appropriate, or both, if jointly agreed on, shall make a thorough investigation to protect the welfare of the child or children.

(2) WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL:

(I) SEE THE CHILD;

(II) ATTEMPT TO HAVE AN ON-SITE INTERVIEW WITH THE CHILD'S CARETAKER; AND

(III) DECIDE ON THE SAFETY OF THE CHILD, WHEREVER THE CHILD IS, AND OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOME.

(b) The investigation shall include:

(1) a determination of the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse, if any; and

(2) if the suspected abuse is verified:

(i) a determination of the identity of the person or persons responsible for the abuse;

(ii) a determination of the name, age, and condition of any other child in the same household;