

(III) DECIDE ON THE SAFETY OF THE CHILD, WHEREVER THE CHILD IS, AND OF 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;

(iii) an evaluation of the parents and the home environment; and

(iv) a determination of any other pertinent facts or matters.

(c) On request by the local department, the local State's Attorney shall assist in the investigation.

(D) BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1985, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT, THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND THE STATE'S ATTORNEY WITHIN EACH COUNTY AND BALTIMORE CITY SHALL ENTER INTO A WRITTEN AGREEMENT THAT SPECIFIES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF REPORTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE.

(E) (1) BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1985, THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, INCLUDING THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT, THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND THE LOCAL STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL IMPLEMENT A JOINT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING JOINT INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

(2) THE JOINT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE SHALL:

(I) INCLUDE APPROPRIATE TECHNIQUES FOR EXPEDITING VALIDATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE COMPLAINTS;

(II) INCLUDE INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES DESIGNED TO:

1. DECREASE THE POTENTIAL FOR PHYSICAL HARM TO THE CHILD; AND

2. DECREASE ANY TRAUMA EXPERIENCED BY THE CHILD IN THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF THE CASE; AND

~~(III)--REQUIRE THAT ALL PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES ON OR~~