

(i) An adult residential environment or home that is certified by the Department of Human Resources;

(ii) A nursing facility or visiting nurse service that is conducted only by or for adherents of a bona fide church or religious 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 15 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.

19-347.

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

(2) (i) "Abuse" means 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.

(b) (1) A person who believes that a resident of a related institution has been abused shall report promptly the alleged abuse to an appropriate law enforcement agency, 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.

(3) The recipient of the report promptly shall notify:

(i) The other parties referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(ii) Unless the administrator is the alleged abuser, the administrator of the related institution.