

Article 88A - Social Services Administration
Section 6(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1985 Replacement Volume)

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

Article 88A - Social Services Administration

6.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Title 5, Subtitle 9 of the Family Law Article, all records and reports concerning child abuse or neglect are confidential, and their unauthorized disclosure is a criminal offense subject to the penalty set out in subsection (e) of this section. Information contained in reports or records concerning child abuse or neglect may be disclosed only:

(1) Under a court order;

(2) To personnel of local or State departments of social services, law enforcement personnel, and members of multidisciplinary case consultation [teams] TEAMS, who are investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect or who are providing services to a child or family that is the subject of the report;

(3) To local or State officials responsible for the administration of the child protective service as necessary to carry out their official functions; [or]

(4) To a person who is the alleged child abuser or the person who is suspected of child neglect if that person is responsible for the child's welfare and provisions are made for the protection of the identity of the reporter or any other person whose life or safety is likely to be endangered by disclosing the information;

(5) TO A LICENSED PRACTITIONER WHO, OR AN AGENCY, INSTITUTION, OR PROGRAM WHICH IS PROVIDING TREATMENT OR CARE TO A CHILD WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT; OR

(6) TO A PARENT OR OTHER PERSON WHO HAS PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY CARE AND CUSTODY OF A CHILD, IF PROVISIONS ARE MADE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE IDENTITY OF THE REPORTER OR ANY OTHER PERSON WHOSE LIFE OR SAFETY IS LIKELY TO BE ENDANGERED BY DISCLOSING THE INFORMATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.