

(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND AN APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FROM AGREEING TO COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

(C) A REPORT MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE ORAL OR IN WRITING.

(D) (1) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, A REPORT MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY § 5-704(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) A REPORT MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE REGARDED AS A REPORT WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, WHETHER OR NOT THE REPORT CONTAINS ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY § 5-704(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5-706.

(A) PROMPTLY AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

(1) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR BOTH, IF JOINTLY AGREED ON, SHALL MAKE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF A REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN; OR

(2) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF A REPORT OF SUSPECTED NEGLECT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN.

(B) WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE AND WITHIN 5 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT OF SUSPECTED NEGLECT, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL:

(1) SEE THE CHILD;

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

(3) DECIDE ON THE SAFETY OF THE CHILD, WHEREVER THE CHILD IS, AND OF OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD; AND

(4) DECIDE ON THE SAFETY OF OTHER CHILDREN IN THE CARE OR CUSTODY OF THE ALLEGED ABUSER.

(C) THE INVESTIGATION SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) A DETERMINATION OF THE NATURE, EXTENT, AND CAUSE OF THE ABUSE OR NEGLECT, IF ANY; AND

(2) IF THE SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS VERIFIED: