

AN ACT concerning

Child Abuse and Other Crimes - Admission of the Out of Court Statement of a Child

FOR the purpose of authorizing a court to admit into evidence at ~~judicial proceedings under certain circumstances certain out of court statements of child victims under a certain age concerning the alleged offense against the child~~ at criminal proceedings certain out of court statements by certain child victims under specific circumstances; providing for certain discovery procedures under certain circumstances; defining a term; describing the circumstances under which a child's out of court statement may come into evidence; authorizing the court to consider certain factors in order to determine the trustworthiness of a child's out of court statement; requiring the court to make a certain finding and to determine the admissibility of a certain statement in accordance with certain procedures; clarifying that this Act does not limit the admissibility of a statement under other hearsay exceptions or rules of evidence; providing for the applicability of this Act; and generally relating to the admissibility into evidence of out of court statements of child victims of certain crimes.

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 9-103.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

9-103.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION "STATEMENT" MEANS:

(1) AN ORAL OR WRITTEN ASSERTION; OR

(2) ~~NONVERBAL CONDUCT OF A PERSON IF IT IS INTENDED BY THE PERSON, IF IT IS INTENDED AS AN ASSERTION, INCLUDING~~ SOUNDS, GESTURES, DEMONSTRATIONS, DRAWINGS, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS.