

AN ACT concerning

Child Abuse and Neglect - Definition

FOR the purpose of altering the definitions of child abuse and neglect; providing that "abuse" means either a physical injury to a child by certain persons under certain circumstances, or sexual abuse; providing that neglect is the failure by certain persons under certain circumstances to provide proper care and attention to a child; providing for a certain exceptions exception; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law
Section 5-701(b) and (n)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Volume and 1988 Supplement)

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

Article - Family Law

5-701.

(b) (1) "Abuse" means:

~~††~~ (I) the [sustaining of] physical injury [by] OF a child [as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act] by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member, under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is SIGNIFICANTLY harmed [or threatened] OR AT RISK OF BEING SIGNIFICANTLY HARMED [thereby]; or

~~††~~ (II) sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

(2) "ABUSE" DOES NOT INCLUDE, FOR THAT REASON ALONE, PROVIDING A CHILD WITH NONMEDICAL RELIGIOUS REMEDIAL CARE AND TREATMENT RECOGNIZED BY STATE LAW.

(n) (1) "Neglect" means [the sustaining by a child of significant physical or mental harm or injury from: