

a protective order; repealing provisions for petitions for modification of protective orders; continuing the effect of, and providing for the modification and enforcement of a District Court order after filing of an appeal to a circuit court under certain circumstances; repealing a prohibition on a certain filing fee; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to protection against domestic violence.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 4-501(b), ~~(e)~~, (h)(3), (4), and (5), and (i)(2)(ii)3, ~~4-504(d)(1)~~ 4-504(d), 4-505(a)(2)(iv) and (vi) and (c)(2), 4-506(b)(2), (d)(4) ~~and (8)~~, and (f), 4-507(b), and 4-508

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

4-501.

(b) (1) “Abuse” means any of the following acts:

- (i) an act that causes serious bodily harm;
- (ii) an act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;
- (iii) battery or assault ~~and battery~~;
- (iv) rape or sexual offense as defined by Article 27, §§ 462 through 464C or attempted rape or sexual offense; OR
- (v) false imprisonment[;].

[(vi)] (2) IF THE PERSON FOR WHOM RELIEF IS SOUGHT IS A CHILD, “ABUSE” MAY ALSO INCLUDE abuse of a child, as defined in Title 5, Subtitle 7 of this article.[; or

(vii) abuse of a vulnerable adult.

(2)] Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to prohibit reasonable punishment, including reasonable corporal punishment, in light of the age and condition of the child, from being performed by a parent or stepparent of the child.

(3) IF THE PERSON FOR WHOM RELIEF IS SOUGHT IS A VULNERABLE ADULT, “ABUSE” MAY ALSO INCLUDE ABUSE OF A VULNERABLE ADULT, AS DEFINED IN TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

~~(e) “Cohabitant” means a person who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent and resided with the respondent [in the home] for a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition.~~