

records may be disclosed under certain circumstances; making stylistic changes; clarifying language; and generally relating to confidentiality and social services, medical assistance, public assistance, and child abuse and neglect records.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article 88A – Social Services Administration  
 Section 6  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (1995 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.

(a) Except in accordance with a court order or to an authorized officer or employee of the State, ANOTHER STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, or the United States, or a fiduciary institution having a right thereto in an official capacity, and as necessary to discharge responsibilities to administer public assistance, medical assistance, or social services programs, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to divulge or make known in any manner any information concerning any applicant for or recipient of social services, child welfare services, cash assistance, food stamps, or medical assistance, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files, investigations or communications of the State, county or city, or subdivisions or agencies thereof, or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Title 5, Subtitle 7 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] REPORTS or records concerning child abuse or neglect may be disclosed only:

(1) ~~(I) Under a court order OR; OR IF THE REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE CONCERNS A CASE PENDING BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND PROVISIONS ARE MADE TO COMPLY WITH OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS AND TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE REPORTER OR OTHER PERSON WHOSE LIFE OR SAFETY IS LIKELY TO BE ENDANGERED BY DISCLOSURE, UNDER AN ORDER OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE~~

(II) UNDER AN ORDER OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE, IF THE REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE CONCERNS A CASE PENDING BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND PROVISIONS ARE MADE TO COMPLY WITH OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS AND TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE REPORTER OR OTHER PERSON WHOSE LIFE OR SAFETY IS LIKELY TO BE ENDANGERED BY DISCLOSURE;

(2) To personnel of ANY local or State [departments] DEPARTMENT of Social Services, law enforcement personnel, and members of multidisciplinary case