

Article - Criminal Law

3-603.

(a) (1) In this section AND §§ 3-604 AND 3-605 OF THIS SUBTITLE the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) "Abuse" means the sustaining of physical pain or injury by a vulnerable adult as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act under circumstances that indicate that the vulnerable adult's health or welfare is harmed or threatened.

(ii) "Abuse" includes the sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult.

(iii) "Abuse" does not include an accepted medical or behavioral procedure ordered by a health care provider authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article or § 13-516 of the Education Article acting within the scope of the health care provider's practice.

(3) "Caregiver" means a person under a duty to care for a vulnerable adult because of a contractual undertaking to provide care.

(4) "Family member" means a relative of a vulnerable adult by blood, marriage, adoption, or the marriage of a child.

(5) "Household" means the location:

(i) in which the vulnerable adult resides;

(ii) where the abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult is alleged to have taken place; or

(iii) where the person suspected of abusing or neglecting a vulnerable adult resides.

(6) "Household member" means an individual who lives with, or is a regular presence in, a home of a vulnerable adult at the time of the alleged abuse or neglect.

(7) (i) "Neglect" means the intentional failure to provide necessary assistance and resources for the physical needs of a vulnerable adult, including:

1. food;
2. clothing;
3. toileting;
4. essential medical treatment;
5. shelter; or
6. supervision.