

July 1, 1991.

Approved April 30, 1991.

CHAPTER 184
(House Bill 402)

AN ACT concerning

Child Abuse – Definition

FOR the purpose of adding household member and family member to the class of certain persons who may be found guilty of child abuse; defining certain terms; and generally relating to child abuse.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments
Section 35A
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1990 Supplement)

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

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

35A.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Abuse" means:

(i) The sustaining of physical injury by 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 harmed or threatened thereby; or

(ii) Sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

(3) "Child" means any individual under the age of 18 years.

(4) "FAMILY MEMBER" MEANS A RELATIVE OF A CHILD BY BLOOD, ADOPTION, OR MARRIAGE ~~OF A CHILD~~.

(5) "HOUSEHOLD MEMBER" MEANS A PERSON WHO LIVES WITH ; OR IS A REGULAR PRESENCE IN; A HOME OF A CHILD AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED ABUSE.