

2. A [licensed] psychologist[, as defined in § 18-101 of the Health Occupations Article];

3. A NURSE;

4. A [licensed] social worker[, as defined in § 19-101 of the Health Occupations Article]; or

[4.] 5. A PRINCIPAL, VICE PRINCIPAL, teacher, OR SCHOOL COUNSELOR AT A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PRESCHOOL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OR SECONDARY SCHOOL; and

(ii) The individual described under item (i) of this paragraph was LAWFULLY acting in the course of the individual's profession when the statement was made.

(3) An out of court statement may be admissible under this section only if the statement possesses particularized guarantees of trustworthiness.

(c) (1) Under this section, an out of court statement by a child may come into evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted in the statement:

(i) If the child's statement is not admissible under any other hearsay exception; and

(ii) Regardless of whether the child testifies.

(2) If the child does not testify, the child's out of court statement will be admissible only if there is corroborative evidence that:

(i) The defendant in a criminal proceeding had the opportunity to commit the alleged offense; or

(ii) The alleged offender in a juvenile court proceeding had the opportunity to commit the alleged abuse or neglect.

(3) In order to provide the defendant with an opportunity to prepare a response to the statement, the prosecutor shall serve on the defendant in a criminal proceeding or on the alleged offender in a juvenile court proceeding and the alleged offender's attorney, a reasonable time before the juvenile court proceeding and at least 20 days before the criminal proceeding in which the statement is to be offered into evidence, notice of:

(i) The State's intention to introduce the statement; and

(ii) The content of the statement.

(4) (i) The alleged offender shall have the right to take the deposition of a witness who will testify under this section;

(ii) Unless the State and the defendant or respondent agree, or the court orders otherwise, the defendant in a criminal proceeding shall file a notice of deposition at least 5 days before, or in a juvenile court proceeding within a reasonable time before, the date of the deposition; and