
By: Delegates Hixson and Grosfeld

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Child Abuse and Neglect - Multidisciplinary Team**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect
4 include the utilization of a certain multidisciplinary team; requiring that certain
5 operating procedures include the utilization of a certain multidisciplinary team;
6 requiring that a certain joint investigation procedure include the utilization of a
7 certain multidisciplinary team; defining a certain term; and generally relating to
8 investigation of child abuse and neglect and the utilization of a certain
9 multidisciplinary team.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article - Family Law
12 Section 5-701(p) through (v), respectively
13 to be Section 5-701(q) through (w), respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article - Family Law
18 Section 5-701(p)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article - Family Law
23 Section 5-706(c) and (e)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

27 Article - Family Law
28 Section 5-706(f)(1)
29 Annotated Code of Maryland
30 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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1 (As enacted by Chapter 635 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1987)

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
3 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 5-701(p) through (v), respectively, of Article - Family
4 Law of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 5-701(q)
5 through (w), respectively.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
7 read as follows:

8 **Article - Family Law**

9 5-701.

10 (P) "MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM" MEANS A BODY OF PROFESSIONALS WHOSE
11 REPRESENTATION SHALL INCLUDE SOCIAL SERVICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, HEALTH,
12 MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND LEGAL DISCIPLINES, AS WELL AS
13 OTHERS WHOSE PARTICIPATION IS APPROPRIATE.

14 5-706.

15 (c) The investigation shall include:

16 (1) a determination of the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse or neglect,
17 if any;

18 (2) AS APPROPRIATE, THE UTILIZATION OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY
19 TEAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SPECIFIED UNDER § 5-706(E) AND
20 (F) OF THIS SECTION;

21 [(2)] (3) if mental injury is suspected, an assessment by two of the following:

22 (i) a licensed physician, as defined in § 14-101 of the Health
23 Occupations Article;

24 (ii) a licensed psychologist, as defined in § 18-101 of the Health
25 Occupations Article; or

26 (iii) a licensed social worker, as defined in § 19-101 of the Health
27 Occupations Article; and

28 [(3)] (4) if the suspected abuse or neglect is verified:

29 (i) a determination of the identity of the person or persons
30 responsible for the abuse or neglect;

31 (ii) a determination of the name, age, and condition of any other child
32 in the household;

33 (iii) an evaluation of the parents and the home environment;

34 (iv) a determination of any other pertinent facts or matters; and

35 (v) a determination of any needed services.

1 (e) The local department, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, the State's
2 Attorney within each county and Baltimore City, the Department's office responsible for
3 child care regulation, and the local health officer, shall enter into a written agreement
4 that specifies standard operating procedures INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF A
5 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AS APPROPRIATE, for the investigation and prosecution of
6 reported cases of suspected abuse.

7 (f) (1) The agencies responsible for investigating reported cases of suspected
8 sexual abuse, including the local department, the appropriate law enforcement agencies,
9 and the local State's Attorney, shall implement a joint investigation procedure
10 INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AS APPROPRIATE,
11 for conducting joint investigations of sexual abuse.

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 1997.