
By: **Delegates Dumais, Barkley, Bronrott, Cryor, Feldman, Franchot,
Goldwater, Gutierrez, Heller, Kaiser, King, Madaleno, Mandel,
Montgomery, Simmons, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2004
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals - Maternity Patients - Shaken Baby Syndrome**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain hospitals to provide maternity patients with
4 written information about shaken baby syndrome prior to the discharge of the
5 patient's newborn or infant child; requiring each patient to sign a statement
6 acknowledging receipt of the written materials; requiring the Maryland Center
7 for Maternal and Child Health in the Family Health Administration to provide
8 the written information about shaken baby syndrome to certain hospitals;
9 providing for the contents of the written information; requiring the written
10 information to be in English and Spanish; and generally relating to hospitals
11 providing information about shaken baby syndrome to maternity patients.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Health - General

14 Section 19-308.7

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Health - General**

20 19-308.7.

21 (A) EACH HOSPITAL IN THE STATE THAT PROVIDES MATERNITY AND
22 OBSTETRICAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN INFORMATION ABOUT SHAKEN
23 BABY SYNDROME TO A MATERNITY PATIENT PRIOR TO THE DISCHARGE OF THE
24 PATIENT'S NEWBORN OR INFANT CHILD FROM THE HOSPITAL.

25 (B) (1) EACH PATIENT SHALL SIGN A STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING
26 RECEIPT OF THE WRITTEN MATERIALS.

1 (2) ONE COPY OF THE STATEMENT SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PATIENT
2 AND ONE COPY OF THE STATEMENT SHALL REMAIN ON FILE AT THE HOSPITAL.

3 (C) (1) THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IN
4 THE FAMILY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE THE WRITTEN
5 INFORMATION ABOUT SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME TO EACH HOSPITAL IN THE STATE
6 THAT PROVIDES MATERNITY AND OBSTETRICAL SERVICES.

7 (2) THE WRITTEN INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE:

8 (I) A FACT SHEET ABOUT SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME;

9 (II) SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS NEW PARENTS CAN COPE WITH
10 CRYING BABIES;

11 (III) SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS NEW PARENTS CAN COPE WITH THE
12 STRESS, FRUSTRATION, AND FATIGUE CREATED BY CARING FOR NEWBORNS AND
13 INFANTS, INCLUDING RESOURCE REFERRALS; AND

14 (IV) A LISTING OF LOCAL AND INTERNET RESOURCE REFERRALS.

15 (3) THE WRITTEN INFORMATION SHALL BE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2004.