

# SENATE BILL 447

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By: Senator Gile

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the circumstances under which a report or record concerning  
4 child abuse or neglect may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services to  
5 certain individuals; and generally relating to disclosure of reports and records of  
6 child abuse and neglect.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Human Services

9 Section 1–202(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Human Services

14 Section 1–202(c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Human Services**

20 1–202.

21 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Title 5, Subtitles 7 and 12 of the Family Law  
22 Article, § 1–203 of this subtitle, and this section, a person may not disclose a report or  
23 record concerning child abuse or neglect.

24 (c) A report or record concerning child abuse or neglect:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) may be disclosed on request to:

(i) personnel of the Social Services Administration or a local department of social services, law enforcement personnel, and members of multidisciplinary case consultation teams, including an addiction specialist as defined in Title 5, Subtitle 12 of the Family Law Article or § 5–314 of this article, who are investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect or providing services to or assessing a child or family that is the subject of the report;

(ii) local or State officials responsible for the administration of child protective services, juvenile services, or child care, foster care, or adoption licensing, approval, or regulations, as necessary to carry out their official functions;

(iii) the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect or its designee, the State Citizens Review Board for Children or its designee, or a child fatality review team, as necessary to carry out their official functions;

14 (iv) a person who is the alleged abuser or neglector, if that person is  
15 responsible for the child's welfare and provisions are made for the protection of the identity  
16 of the reporter or any other person whose life or safety is likely to be endangered by  
17 disclosing the information;

18 (v) a licensed practitioner who, or an agency, institution, or program  
19 that, is providing treatment or care to a child who is the subject of a report of child abuse  
20 or neglect for a purpose relevant to the treatment or care;

21 (vi) a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care  
22 and custody of the child, if provisions are made for the protection of the identity of the  
23 reporter or any other person whose life or safety is likely to be endangered by disclosing the  
24 information;

30 A. a public school employee in that school system;

31 B. an employee of that nonpublic school;

32 C. an independent contractor who supervises or works  
33 directly with students in that school system or that nonpublic school; or

10 (viii) the director of a licensed child care facility or licensed child  
11 placement agency to carry out appropriate personnel actions following a report of suspected  
12 child abuse or neglect alleged to have been committed by an employee of the facility or  
13 agency and involving a child who is currently or was previously under the care of that  
14 facility or agency;

15 (ix) the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit of the Office of the  
16 [Attorney General] **CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN** established under [Title 6, Subtitle 4]  
17 **TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 4** of the State Government Article;

23 (xi) the president of a Maryland public institution of higher  
24 education, as defined in § 10-101 of the Education Article, or the Chancellor of the  
25 University System of Maryland, to carry out appropriate personnel or administrative  
26 actions following a report of child abuse committed:

27 1. by an employee of the institution who has on-campus  
28 contact with children; or

31 (2) may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services to:

5 (III) THE COACH, TEAM ADMINISTRATOR, OR MANAGER OF A  
6 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM FOR RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION OR  
7 INSTRUCTION FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE MINORS; AND

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 2026.