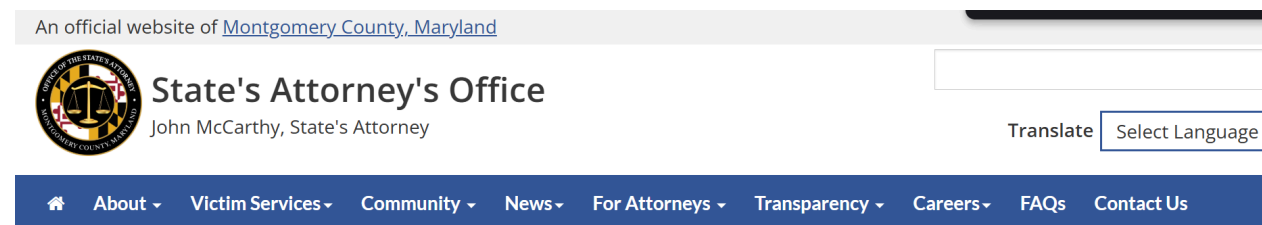


Valerie Ferrell, Cecil County.

I respectfully ask that you vote unfavorable on SB 711, which would change the definition of child neglect to specifically include educational neglect. The bill is unnecessary, and will not achieve the end of getting more kids into school where they can be observed and potentially helped if they are in a dangerous situation. Maryland law is already interpreted as including educational neglect (see image below). Explicitly expanding the definition can only mean there will be more reports, which will burden a system already primed for over-reporting. This will put serious strain on the investigators, as well as the budget. Over-reporting also runs the risk of drowning out the serious cases where our state and county employees can help a child or family in need.



Crimes Against Children: Neglect Frequently Asked Questions

This section provides answers to common questions about child neglect under Maryland law.

What is Neglect?

Neglect is any form of **maltreatment** or **negligence** that **harms a child's health, welfare, or safety**. This can include physical, emotional, or **educational** neglect.

Example: Screenshot of Montgomery County state attorney's office webpage explaining what child neglect includes, taken 2/24/26.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SAO/units/family/neglectfaq.html>