

Article - Family Law
 Section 9-101 and 9-102, respectively
 to be Section 9-102 and 9-103, respectively
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (As enacted by Chapter _____ (H.B. 1) of the
 Acts of the General Assembly of 1984)

BY adding to

Article - Family Law
 Section 9-101
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (As enacted by Chapter _____ (H.B. 1) of the
 Acts of the General Assembly of 1984)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 9-101 and 9-102, respectively, of Article - Family Law of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 9-102 and 9-103, respectively.

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

Article - Family Law

9-101.

(A) -- IN THIS SECTION, "LOCAL DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE JURISDICTION WHERE THE ALLEGED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OCCURRED, OR, IF UNKNOWN, WHERE THE CHILD LIVES.

(A) (B) (A) IN ANY CUSTODY OR VISITATION PROCEEDING, IF THE COURT HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN ABUSED OR NEGLECTED BY A PARTY TO THE PROCEEDING, THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS LIKELY TO OCCUR IF CUSTODY OR VISITATION RIGHTS ARE GRANTED TO THE PARTY.

(C) (1) -- IF THE COURT HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN ABUSED OR NEGLECTED BY A PARTY TO THE PROCEEDING, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO REPORT IN WRITING TO THE COURT, WITHIN 7 DAYS, WHETHER THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ANY REPORTS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF THE CHILD BY THE PARTY, AND IF SO, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT'S FINDINGS.

(2) -- IF THE SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATED, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, AND REPORT THE RESULTS IN WRITING TO THE COURT WITHIN 7 DAYS.

(B) (D) (B) UNLESS THE COURT SPECIFICALLY FINDS HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE SPECIFICALLY FINDS THAT THERE IS