

~~REPORT PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN MADE TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY IN THE STATE IN WHICH THE CHILD LIVES, THE PERSON IS NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT THE ABUSE.~~

~~(D)~~ ~~(E)~~ (D) PROMPTLY AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT ~~OR NEGLECT~~ UNDER THIS SECTION, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL FORWARD THE REPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY OUTSIDE OF THIS STATE THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT ~~OR NEGLECT~~.

5-706.

(a) Promptly after receiving a report of suspected abuse or neglect OF A CHILD WHO LIVES IN THIS STATE THAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS STATE:

(1) the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency, or both, if jointly agreed on, shall make a thorough investigation of a report of suspected abuse to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the child or children; or

(2) the local department shall make a thorough investigation of a report of suspected neglect to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the child or children.

(b) Within 24 hours after receiving a report of suspected physical or sexual abuse OF A CHILD WHO LIVES IN THIS STATE THAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS STATE, and within 5 days after receiving a report of suspected neglect or suspected mental injury OF A CHILD WHO LIVES IN THIS STATE THAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS STATE, the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency shall:

(1) see the child;

(2) attempt to have an on-site interview with the child's caretaker;

(3) decide on the safety of the child, wherever the child is, and of other children in the household; and

(4) decide on the safety of other children in the care or custody of the alleged abuser.

(c) The investigation UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION shall include:

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

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

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

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

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