

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law
Section 5-905(d) and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Volume and 1986 Supplement)

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

Article - Family Law

5-901.

(E-1) "HEALTH OFFICER" MEANS:

- (1) THE BALTIMORE CITY COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH; OR
- (2) THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF A COUNTY.

5-905.

(d) [Before January 1, 1985, the] THE local department, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, [and] the State's Attorney within each county and Baltimore City, AND THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER shall enter into a written agreement that specifies standard operating procedures for the investigation and prosecution of reported cases of child abuse.

(e) (1) [Before January 1, 1985, the] THE agencies responsible for investigating child sexual abuse, including the local department, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, THE HEALTH-OFFICER, and the local State's Attorney shall implement a joint investigation procedure for conducting joint investigations of child sexual abuse.

(2) The joint investigation procedure shall:

(i) include appropriate techniques for expediting validation of child sexual abuse complaints;

(ii) include investigation techniques designed to:

1. decrease the potential for physical harm to the child; and

2. decrease any trauma experienced by the child in the investigation and prosecution of the case; and