

## Maryland

### Physical Abuse

**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-701**

'Abuse' means:

- The physical or mental injury of a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care, custody, or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member, under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed
- Sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not

### Neglect

**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-701**

'Neglect' means leaving a child unattended or other failure to give proper care and attention to a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of the child under circumstances that indicate:

- That the child's health or welfare is harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm
- Mental injury to the child or a substantial risk of mental injury

### Sexual Abuse/Exploitation

**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-701**

'Sexual abuse' means any act that involves sexual molestation or exploitation of a child by a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member. 'Sexual abuse' includes:

- Allowing or encouraging a child to engage in:
  - » Obscene photography, films, poses, or similar activity
  - » Pornographic photography, films, poses, or similar activity
  - » Prostitution
- Human trafficking
- Incest
- Rape
- Sexual offense in any degree
- Sodomy
- Unnatural or perverted sexual practices

### Emotional Abuse

**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-701**

'Mental injury' means the observable, identifiable, and substantial impairment of a child's mental or psychological ability to function.

### Abandonment

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

### Standards for Reporting

**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-704**

A report is required when a mandatory reporter has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect.

### Persons Responsible for the Child

**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-701**

Responsible persons include a parent or other person who provides temporary care, custody, or supervision of the child, including:

- A family member, including a relative to the child by blood, adoption, or marriage
- A household member, including a person who lives or is a regular presence in a home of a child at the time of the alleged abuse or neglect

### Exceptions

No exceptions are specified in statute.