



As a member of the University System of

or past

incident of child abuse or neglect has occurred.

These procedures are intended to assist in implementing the University System of Maryland's Policy on the Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (VI—1.50), which provides direction and guidance on how Maryland's mandatory child maltreatment and neglect under the law, including:

- a. Whether the victim was a child (i.e., under age 18) when the incident occurred;
- b. Whether the alleged perpetrator was a parent, household or family member, or other person who had care, custody or supervision

maltreatment occurred; of the child when the

c. Whether the child was injured, harmed or at substantial risk of harm as a result of the alleged maltreatment.

B. In the absence of this information, you are not required to report the incident, but you still should consider making a report if you genuinely suspect that it was child

- A. Please use the USM Form “University System of Maryland Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect” for reporting child abuse/neglect, which appears on the USM website.
- B. Although only USM professional employees are required to submit a written report, other individuals are encouraged to complete and submit the form if they suspect child abuse.

- iii. If a disclosure of past abuse or neglect is made in a public group setting (e.g., in class or at a campus event), the individual(s) responsible for convening the group or event is responsible for making the report on behalf of the other attendees.
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- A. Depending upon the specific circumstances of the alleged child maltreatment, you may be contacted by Child Protective Services (CPS) or the USMO Designee for more information after making a report.
 - B. Your identity as a reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect will be kept confidential by both Child Protective Services (CPS) and the USMO.
 - C. Maryland law and USM policy offer immunity from reprisal to any member of the USM community for making a good faith report of child maltreatment.
 - D. Under State and Federal child abuse confidentiality laws, it is possible that you will not be informed of the results of the child maltreatment investigation that was initiated in response to your report. If you are not contacted by Child Protective Services (CPS) or USMO Designee, please do not assume that the concern which you reported was not investigated or addressed.
 - E. By following the provisions of the USM policy and these procedures in good faith, you will have met your obligations under the law and the policy to report suspected child maltreatment.

Under the official Attorney General's Opinion interpreting Maryland's child abuse reporting laws,

- a. The identity and whereabouts, if known, of the alleged abuser or neglecter;
 - b. The identity and whereabouts of any children who may currently require protection from the alleged abuser or neglecter; and
 - c. Any other information that would help to determine the nature and cause of the suspected maltreatment and the identity of the suspected abuser/neglector.
- C. You are required to report the name and contact information that you have regarding the adult victim. However, if you have any reason to be concerned that the adult victim may be distressed or will otherwise experience negative consequences as a result of your report:
- i. Make that concern clear when you make your report orally and, if required, in writing; and
 - ii. Consult with the USMO Designee.
- D. While it is not required that you inform the adult victim that you are making a report, you should feel free to do so.