

## Chapter 194

**(Senate Bill 35)**

AN ACT concerning

**Juvenile Law – Informal Adjustment – Mental Health Program**

FOR the purpose of establishing that a juvenile informal adjustment process may exceed a certain length of time if a juvenile intake officer determines that additional time is necessary for a child to ~~complete~~ participate in a certain substance-related disorder treatment program or a certain mental health program; making a technical change; and generally relating to juvenile law.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 3–8A–10(f)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

3–8A–10.

(f) (1) During the informal adjustment process, the child shall be subject to such supervision as the intake officer deems appropriate and if the intake officer decides to have an intake conference, the child and the child's parent or guardian shall appear at the intake conference.

(2) The informal adjustment process may not exceed 90 days unless:

(i) That time is extended by the court; or

(ii) The intake officer determines that additional time is necessary for the child to ~~complete a substance abuse treatment~~ **PARTICIPATE IN A SUBSTANCE-RELATED DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAM OR A MENTAL HEALTH** program that is part of the informal adjustment process.

(3) If the victim, the child, and the child's parent or guardian do not consent to an informal adjustment, the intake officer shall authorize the filing of a petition or a peace order request or both or deny authorization to file a petition or a peace order request or both under subsection (g) of this section.

(4) If at any time before the completion of an agreed upon informal adjustment the intake officer believes that the informal adjustment cannot be completed successfully, the intake officer shall authorize the filing of a petition or a peace order request or both or deny authorization to file a petition or a peace order request or both under subsection (g) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

**Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2017.**