

ABUSE/ASSAULT REPORTING

I. PURPOSE

To describe reporting requirements for prehospital personnel when child or elder abuse, sexual assault, or domestic violence is observed or is reasonably suspected.

II. CHILD ABUSE, ELDER/DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

EMS personnel faced with a situation where s/he has reason to suspect child abuse, elder/dependent adult abuse (physical/sexual/financial) or neglect, or domestic violence shall:

- A. Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately if the scene is unsafe or it is suspected that a crime has been committed.
- B. Make reasonable efforts to transport the patient to a receiving hospital for evaluation, and provide the receiving hospital staff of abuse/neglect suspicions.
- C. Document observations and findings on the patient care report.
- D. Contact the appropriate reporting agency by telephoning immediately or as soon as reasonably possible to provide a verbal report.
- E. File a written report with the appropriate reporting agency within two (2) working days.

III. REPORTING

A. To Report Child Abuse:

<p>Call Children & Family Services Screening Unit: (all numbers are 24 hours/day) West County (510) 374-3324 Central County (925) 646-1680 East County (925) 427-8811</p>	<p>Complete a Suspected Child Abuse Report Form (SS 8572) (available online at http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf) within 2 working days and submit to: Employment & Human Services Department Children & Family Services Screening Unit 2530 Arnold Drive, Suite 200 Martinez CA 94553</p>
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B. To Report Elder Abuse:

<p style="text-align: center;">If the alleged abuse has occurred in a long-term care facility</p>	
<p>Call Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa (925) 685-2070 to make a verbal report</p>	<p>Complete a Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse Form (SOC 341) (available online at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/SOC341.pdf) within 2 working days and submit to: Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa 1601 Sutter Street, Suite A Concord, CA 94520</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">If the alleged abuse has occurred anywhere else</p>	
<p>Call Adult Protective Services (925) 646-2854 or 1-877-839-4347 to make a verbal report</p>	<p>Complete a Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse Form (SOC) (available online at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/SOC341.pdf) within 2 working days and submit to: Employment & Human Services Department Adult Protective Services 2530 Arnold Drive, Suite 300 Martinez CA 94553</p>



C. To Report Domestic Violence:

Reporting responsibilities are fulfilled by notifying the local law enforcement agency, and by reporting suspicions and patient findings to receiving hospital staff (if transported).

IV. SEXUAL ASSAULT

- A. Sexual assault shall be reported as above in situations involving elder, dependent adult, child, or domestic violence.
- B. It is recommended to transport patients who have been sexually assaulted to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center for evaluation and evidentiary exam; however, the patient may be transported to the receiving hospital of choice.
- C. Discourage any activity that would compromise evidence collection prior to transport such as bathing, brushing teeth, brushing hair, urinating, defecating or changing clothes.