

# Abuse/Assault Reporting

## I. PURPOSE

Healthcare providers are mandated reporters. Regardless of whether or not another mandated reporter agrees to make the report or if law enforcement is on-scene, it is the responsibility of every and all healthcare providers to report child, dependent adult and elder abuse and/or neglect.

## II. MANDATORY REPORTING

If a prehospital care provider reasonably suspects child, elder or dependent abuse or neglect:

- A. Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately if it is suspected that abuse or neglect has occurred, whether or not the person that is suspected to have been abused or neglected is a patient.
- B. If the person who is reasonably suspected to have been abused or neglected is a patient and is suffering from a medical emergency, make reasonable efforts to transport the patient to a receiving hospital for evaluation. Provide the receiving hospital staff with the basis for the abuse/neglect suspicions.
- C. Document observations and findings of suspected abuse or neglect if it relates to the medical complaint or condition, in addition to the other required information concerning the patient's medical complaint, on the prehospital care report.
- D. Contact the appropriate reporting agency by telephone immediately, or as soon as practically possible, to provide a verbal report.
- E. File a written report on the California Child Abuse Report form or the California Suspected Elder/Dependent Abuse Report form with the appropriate reporting agency within two (2) business days.
- F. Reporting under this policy is an individual requirement. Reporting is required even if law enforcement is on scene, or if there are other mandated reporter(s) on scene who also reasonably suspect abuse or neglect and whether or not the other mandated reporter(s) indicate he/she will make the report. Supervisors and managers shall not prevent or otherwise instruct a subordinate not to file a report required by this policy.
- G. Reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the receiving hospital does not relieve a prehospital care provider of their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect to the reporting agencies by telephone and in writing.
- H. A prehospital care provider is not required to prove, or have substantial evidence of, abuse or neglect before making a report of suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to this policy. If a reasonable person under the circumstances would suspect the possibility of elder, dependent adult or child abuse or neglect, then the prehospital care provider is mandated to make a report pursuant to this policy.



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## III. REPORTING AGENCIES

### A. Child Abuse/Neglect

Call: Children and Family Services [\(877\)881-1116](tel:(877)881-1116)  
File a written report: Employment and Human Services Department  
Children and Family Services Screening Unit  
400 Ellinwood Way  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

### B. Dependent Adult or Elder Abuse/Neglect

Call: Adult Protective Services [\(925\)602-4179](tel:(925)602-4179) or  
[\(877\)839-4347](tel:(877)839-4347)  
File a written report: Employment and Human Services Department  
Adult Protective Services  
500 Ellinwood Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

**RESOURCES:** [Suspected Child Abuse Report \(SS Form 8572\)](#)  
[Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse \(SOC Form 341\)](#)  
[Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, Cal. Pen. Code §§ 11164 - 11174.3](#)  
[Elder and Dependent Abuse Reporting Act, Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 15630 - 15633](#)

