



Assault, Abuse and Suspicious Injury

PURPOSE

- I. To define pre-hospital personnel required reporting procedures for suspected child, elder, or dependent adult abuse, and suspicious injuries.

POLICY

I. SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE:

A. Principles:

1. The purpose of reporting suspected child abuse/neglect is to protect the child, prevent further abuse of the child and other children in the home, and begin treatment of the entire family. The infliction of injury, rather than the degree of that injury, is the determinant for intervention by the Child Protective Services and law enforcement.
2. Under current law, all healthcare professionals are mandated to report suspected child abuse/neglect that they have knowledge of or observe in their professional capacity. Any person who fails to report as required may be punished by six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
3. It is the job of law enforcement, CPS and the Courts to determine whether or not child abuse/neglect has, in fact, occurred. It is not necessary for the mandated reporter to determine child abuse, but only to suspect that it may have occurred.
4. When a mandated reporter has knowledge of or has observed child abuse or neglect, that individual is required to report to the local law enforcement and/or to the CPS immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and shall complete the suspected child abuse report form within thirty-six (36) hours.
5. When two or more mandatory reporters, jointly have knowledge of a known, or suspected, instance of abuse, a single report may be made.
6. Those persons legally required to report suspected child abuse have immunity from criminal or civil liability for reporting as required.

B. Reporting Procedures:

1. EMS personnel shall complete a Department of Justice (DOJ) Suspected Child Abuse, [SS 8572 Reporting Form](#) for all suspected cases of child abuse/neglect.
2. The purpose of the DOJ Suspected Child Abuse SS 8572 Report is to make appropriate agencies aware of possible abuse/neglect. In Napa County, it is recommended that a prompt verbal report be made to both CPS and local law enforcement. However, if the child is in imminent danger, local law enforcement should be notified immediately.
3. This should be done as soon as possible. It is recommended that the Child Abuse Report form be completed prior to making verbal notification. EMS personnel should be aware of their local law enforcement reporting procedures and telephone numbers for notification.

4. To make a verbal report to CPS, call the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline:
 - a. 707-253-4261
 - b. 800-464-4216
5. The suspected child abuse/neglect report is to be completed according to the instructions on the back of the form. The completed form shall be sent to local law enforcement and CPS within thirty-six (36) hours:

Napa County CPS
P O Box 815
Napa, CA 94559

II. SUSPECTED ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE:

A. Principles:

1. EMTs and Paramedics, as health care practitioners, are mandated reporters and have a legal obligation to report known or suspected elder or dependent adult abuse under the following circumstances:
 - a. When the reporter has observed an incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse; or
 - b. When the reporter has observed a physical injury where the nature of the injury, its location on the body, or the repetition of the injury, clearly indicates that physical abuse has occurred; or
 - c. When the reporter is told by an elder or a dependent adult that he or she has experienced behavior constituting physical abuse.
2. The law mandates all prehospital reporters to report known or suspected instances of other types of abuse of an elder or of a dependent adult, including neglect, mental abuse, financial abuse, isolation and abandonment.
3. Reporting is the responsibility of the mandated reporter. No supervisor or administrator may prohibit the filing of a required report.

B. Reporting Procedures:

1. Reports of abuse shall be verbally submitted within two hours, or as soon as possible, by telephone.
 - a. When reporting abuse that allegedly occurred in a long-term care facility or Adult Day Health Care Center, contact either the local law enforcement agency or the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program: 707-255-4236.
 - b. When the abuse is alleged to have occurred anywhere else, contact either the local law enforcement agency or Adult Protective Services at: 707-253-4398 (during business hours) or 888-619-6913 (after hours).
 - c. EMS personnel shall complete the California Department of Social Services, [SOC-341 Form](#) and submit per the instructions on the form.

III. SUSPICIOUS INJURY, ASSAULT, OR ABUSE

A. Principles:

1. EMS personnel are encouraged to report to local law enforcement any patient who is suffering a wound or physical injury inflicted as a result of assaultive or abusive conduct, or by means of a firearm.

2. EMS personnel are encouraged to report to local law enforcement any injuries from sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence.

B. Reporting Procedures:

1. Immediate verbal notification should be made to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction at the scene of the incident.
 - a. The verbal report must contain:
 - i. The name of the injured person, if known;
 - ii. The injured person's whereabouts;
 - iii. The character and extent of the person's injuries;
 - iv. The identity of the person who allegedly inflicted the injury.
2. A written report may be submitted within two working days.
 - a. EMS personnel should use the [Cal OES 2-920 Form](#) to complete the reporting requirement. Submitting directly to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction at the scene of the incident.
 - b. There is no exemption to this requirement if law enforcement is at the incident.

IV. SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- A. Follow Napa County EMS Agency [Administrative Policy 108 Sexual Assault and Suspected Human Trafficking](#).