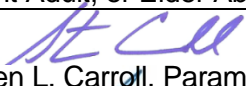



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Child, Dependent Adult, or Elder Abuse Reporting		Policy Number 210	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: June 1, 2019	
APPROVED: Medical Director:	 Daniel Shepherd M.D.	Date: June 1, 2019	
Origination Date:	June 14, 1984		
Date Revised:	March 14, 2019	Effective Date: June 1, 2019	
Last Review:	March 14, 2019		
Review Date:	March 31, 2022		

- I. PURPOSE: To define child, dependent adult and elder abuse and outline the required reporting procedure for prehospital care personnel in all cases of suspected child, dependent adult and elder abuse.
- II. AUTHORITY: Welfare and Institutions code Section 15630-15632
- III. POLICY: EMS Provider will report all suspected cases of abuse.
- IV. DEFINITIONS:
 - A. "Abuse of an elder or a dependent adult" means physical abuse, neglect, intimidation, cruel punishment, fiduciary abuse, abandonment, isolation, or treatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering, or the deprivation by a care custodian of goods and services which are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering.
 1. "Isolation" means any of the following:
 - a. Acts intentionally committed for the purpose of preventing, and that do serve to prevent, an elder or dependent adult from receiving his or her mail or telephone calls.
Telling a caller or prospective visitor that an elder or dependent adult is not present, or does not wish to talk with the caller, or does not wish to meet with the visitor, where the statement is false, is contrary to the express wishes of the elder or the dependent adult, whether he or she is competent or not, and is made for the purpose of preventing the elder or dependent adult from having contact with family, friends, or concerned persons. False imprisonment, as defined in Section 236 of the Penal Code. Physical restraint of an elder or dependent adult for the purpose of preventing the elder or dependent adult from meeting with visitors.
 - b. The acts set forth in paragraph a. shall be subject to a rebuttal presumption that they do not constitute isolation if they are performed pursuant to the instructions of a physician licensed to

practice medicine in the State of California, who is caring for the elder or dependent adult at the time the instructions are given, and who gives the instructions as part of his or her medical care.

- c. The acts set forth in paragraph a. shall not constitute isolation if they are performed in response to a reasonably perceived threat of danger to property or physical safety.
2. "Child" means any person under the age of 18 years.
3. "Child abuse" means physical injury which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person....sexual assault of a child....neglect of a child or abuse in out-of-home care.
4. "Dependent Adult" means any person residing in this state between the ages of 18 and 64, who has physical or mental limitations which restrict his or her ability to carry out normal activities or to protect his or her rights including, but not limited to, persons who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.
5. "Dependent adult" includes any person between the ages of 18 and 64 years who is admitted as an inpatient to a 24-hour health facility, as defined in Sections 1250, 1250.2, and 1250.3 of the Health and Safety Code.
6. "Elder" means any person residing in this state, 65 years of age or older"
7. "Health practitioner" means a physician and surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, licensed clinical social worker or associate clinical social worker, marriage, family, and child counselor, or any other person who is currently licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code, any emergency medical technician I or II, paramedic, or person certified pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code, a psychological assistant registered pursuant to Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code, a marriage, family, and child counselor trainee, as defined in subdivision © of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code, state or county public health or social service employee who treats an elder or a dependent adult for any condition, or a coroner.

8. "Physical abuse means all of the following:
 - a. Battery or assault
 - b. Assault with a deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury
 - c. Unreasonable physical constraint or prolonged or continual deprivation of food or water.
 - d. Sexual Assault, which means any of the following:
 - 1) Sexual battery, rape, incest, sodomy, oral copulation, or penetration of a genital or anal opening by a foreign object.
 - e. Use of a physical or chemical restraint or psychotropic medication under any of the following conditions:
 - 1) For punishment
 - 2) For a period significantly beyond that for which the restraint or medication was authorized pursuant to the instructions of a physician licensed in the State of California, who is providing medical care to the elder or dependent adult at the time the instructions are given.
9. "Reasonable suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse.

V. PROCEDURE:

1. Report by telephone to a county child or adult protective agency (Ventura County Human Services Agency at (805-654-3200) or to a local law enforcement agency immediately or as soon as possible. The telephone report shall include the following:
 - a. Name, address, telephone number, and occupation of the person making the report
 - b. Name and address of the victim
 - c. Date, time and place of the incident
 - d. Other details, including the reporter's observations and beliefs concerning the incident
 - e. Any statement relating to the incident made by the victim
 - f. The name of any individuals believed to have knowledge of the incident
 - g. The name of the individuals believed to be responsible for the incident and their connection to the victim.

- h. Present location of the child
 - i. Nature and extent of the injury
 - j. Information that led such person to suspect child abuse
- 2. Report in writing and fax to (805-654-5597) within two working days of receiving the information concerning the incident.
- 3. When two (2) or more persons who are required to report are present and jointly have knowledge of a suspected instance of child, dependent adult or elder abuse, and when there is agreement among them, the telephone report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement and a single report may be made and signed by such selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so, shall thereafter make such report.
- 4. The reporting duties are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit such reporting duties and no person making such report shall be subject to any sanction for making such report. However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be established provided that they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this article.