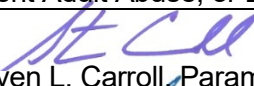



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Child Abuse, Dependent Adult Abuse, or Elder Abuse Reporting		Policy Number 210	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: January 3, 2023	
APPROVED: Medical Director:	 Daniel Shepherd M.D.	Date: January 3, 2023	
Origination Date:	June 14, 1984		
Date Revised:	November 10, 2022	Effective Date: January 3, 2023	
Last Review:	November 10, 2022		
Review Date:	November 30, 2024		

- I. PURPOSE: To define child abuse or neglect, abuse of an elder or a dependent adult and outline the required reporting procedure for prehospital personnel in these cases.
- II. AUTHORITY: Welfare and Institutions Code: [ARTICLE 3 Mandatory and Nonmandatory Reports of Abuse \[15630-15632\]](#). Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA): [ARTICLE 2.5 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act \[11164-11174.3\]](#).
- III. POLICY: EMS Providers are mandated reporters and will report all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, and abuse of an elder or a dependent adult.
- IV. DEFINITIONS:
 - A. "Abuse of an elder or a dependent adult" means physical abuse, neglect, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering, the deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering, or financial abuse.
 - B. "Child" means any person under the age of 18 years.
 - C. "Child abuse or neglect" means physical injury or death by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse, neglect, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury.
 - D. "Dependent adult" means a person, regardless of whether the person lives independently, between the ages of 18 and 59 years who resides in this state and who has physical or mental limitations that 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. Dependent adult also includes any person between the ages of 18 and 59 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.

- E. "Elder" means any person residing in this state, 60 years of age or older.
 - F. "Mandated Reporter" includes an emergency medical technician I or II, paramedic, or other person certified pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code.
 - G. "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 the person's training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect, or abuse of an elder or a dependent adult.
- V. PROCEDURE:
- A. Suspected abuse of an elder or a dependent adult
 1. Report online at ReporttoAPS.org or call 805-654-3200 within 48 hours of receiving information concerning the incident.
 - a. Reporting online satisfies the State requirement for mandated reporters to call in and mail/fax a report.
 - b. If online reporting cannot be done, reports may be emailed to HSA-APS-Referrals@ventura.org or faxed to 805-650-1521.
 2. Failure to report suspected abuse of an elder or a dependent adult
 - a. Failure to report, or impeding or inhibiting a report of, physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of this section, is a misdemeanor, punishable by not more than six months in the county jail, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. A mandated reporter who willfully fails to report, or impedes or inhibits a report of, physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of this section, if that abuse results in death or great bodily injury, shall be punished by not more than one year in a county jail, by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. If a mandated reporter intentionally conceals their failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect under this section, the failure to report is a continuing offense until a law enforcement agency specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 15630 discovers the offense.

- B. Suspected child abuse or neglect
 1. Make an initial report by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible to the 24-hour hotline 805-654-3200.
 2. Submit a written report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident: ([Form BCIA 8572](#)) to HSA-CFS-SCAR@ventura.org.
 3. Failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect
 - a. A mandated reporter who fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both that imprisonment and fine. If a mandated reporter intentionally conceals the mandated reporter's failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect under this section, the failure to report is a continuing offense until an agency specified in Section 11165.9 discovers the offense.
- C. When two (2) or more persons, who are required to report, are present and jointly have knowledge of a suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, or abuse of an elder or a dependent adult, 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.
- D. 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.

Reporting Suspected Abuse

Suspected abuse of an elder or dependent adult

Report online or call within 48 hours

Link to online report: ReporttoAPS.org

24-hour hotline: 805-654-3200

If unable to submit online report, submit through email or fax

Link to email:
HSA-APS-Referrals@ventura.org

-OR-

FAX: 805-650-1521

Suspected child abuse or neglect

Initial report by telephone immediately or as soon as
practically possible

24-hour hotline: 805-654-3200

Submit written report within 36 hours

Link to form: [Form BCIA 8572](#)

Email form to:
HSA-CFS-SCAR@ventura.org