

RC MERT Child Abuse Reporting Policy

Department of Operations

April 2015

1. Purpose

- a. To ensure proper reporting measures are followed when RC MERT members encounter a potential child abuse/maltreatment situation while on call.
- b. To ensure compliance with NYS DOH Bureau of EMS Policy Statement No. 2002-01 (Requirement to report suspected instances of child abuse and maltreatment) and NYS Social Services Law Title 6 Section 415 (Child Protective Services: Reporting Procedure).

2. Scope

- a. This reporting policy applies to RC MERT Crew Chiefs at all times when a call situation warrants suspect of child abuse/maltreatment.

3. Definitions of Child Abuse and Maltreatment

- a. The following should serve as a basic guide to situations where child abuse/maltreatment is suspected. The following is not a substitute for RC MERT crew member intuition and observation on a scene.
- b. Child Abuse and Maltreatment Fact Sheet, Appended to this document.

4. Reporting Procedures

- a. If an RC MERT Crew Chief suspects a patient may be a victim of child abuse/maltreatment, he/she will ensure the following are completed:
 - i. Notify University of Rochester Public Safety Supervisor on-scene (or ranking law enforcement officer) of suspicions of child abuse and that reporting procedures will be followed.
 - ii. If applicable, notify all other responding EMS personnel (R/MMS, Monroe Ambulance, etc.) of suspicions of child abuse and that reporting procedures will be followed.
 - iii. Notify the DO and ADO of suspicions of child abuse and that reporting procedures will be followed.
 - iv. An Oral Report of Suspected Child Abuse will be completed by the Crew Chief, with input from the DO and the ADO, to the following register:
NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register:

1-800-635-1522

v. Within 48 hours of the Oral Report, a Written Report will be completed by the Crew Chief, reviewed by the DO/ADO, and submitted to the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register by the Operations Department.

Form DSS-2221-A: Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Maltreatment.

vi. A copy of the DSS-2221-A Form will be attached to the emsCharts Prehospital Care Report in a timely manner.

5.Failure to Report

- a. An RC MERT Crew Chief who fails to report a potential case of child abuse/maltreatment will be subject to disciplinary action and potential state criminal charges.
- b. A failure to report a potential case of child abuse/maltreatment should be documented promptly by any other RC MERT member.

6. References

- <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy/02-01.htm>