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## REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ABUSE

REVISION: 03/25

(Signature On-file)

David Duncan, EMS Agency Medical Director

### **AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, section 1798 and; child abuse: California Penal Code, Article 2.5; and elder abuse: Chapter 1273, Statutes of 1983, SB 1210, Sections 9381 (a) and 9382. Welfare and Institutions Code Chapter II, Part 3, Division 9.

### **PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy for identifying and reporting suspected child, dependent adult or elder abuse.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

Child- Any person under the age of eighteen.

Dependent Adult- Any person between the ages of 18 and 64 years 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.

Elder- Any person residing in this state, 65 years of age or older.

Abuse- of a child means: physical injury, or suffering, including sexual assault or death, which is intentionally inflicted by another person. This includes intentionally endangering the child or health of the child.

Abuse of a dependent adult and/or elder means either of the following:

- a) Physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering.
- b) The deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering.

Neglect- of a child means: the failure of a parent or caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, or supervision.

Neglect of a dependent adult and/or elder means either:

- a) The failure of any person having the care or custody of an elder or a dependent adult to exercise the degree of care that a reasonable person in a similar position would exercise.
- b) The failure of an elder or dependent adult to exercise the degree of self-care that a reasonable person in a similar position would exercise.

Mandated Reporters- include, but are not limited to: Health care workers, care providers, social workers, law enforcement officers, senior center staff, and staff of government funded programs that provide services for elderly or dependent adults. This includes physicians, nurses, paramedics, and EMTs.

**POLICY:**

All El Dorado County prehospital personnel are responsible for reporting incidents of suspected abuse or neglect toward children, dependent adults, and elders.

**REPORTING PROCEDURES:**

- 1) For incidents where abuse constitutes an acute threat to life or health and the nature of the situation requires immediate intervention, contact local law enforcement.
- 2) For incidents of possible abuse or neglect, EMS shall report their suspicions by phone and in writing as described below:

**For Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect:**

a. Telephone a report to Child Protective Services (CPS) immediately or as soon as practically possible. The telephone report shall include the following:

- Name of the person making the report
- Name of the child
- DOB of the child
- Present location of the child
- Address of the child
- Nature and extent of the abuse/neglect
- Supporting information that may assist CPS

b. Prepare a written report within 24 hours of the incident (see form SS8572) and forward the original copy to your respective CPS office:

<https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/files/assets/county/v/1/documents/public-safety-amp-justice/public-safety/child-abuse-reporting-form.pdf>

East Slope Child Protective Services  
981 Silver Dollar Avenue  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-7761  
24 hour phone: (530) 573-3201  
Fax: (530) 541-2803

West Slope Child Protective Services  
3057 Briw Road, Suite A  
Placerville, CA 95667  
24 hour phone: (530) 642-7100  
Fax: (530) 626-7427

c. When two or more persons who are required to report are present and jointly have knowledge of a suspected instance of child abuse, a single group telephone report may be made by a member of the team.

**For Suspected Dependent Adult or Elder Abuse/Neglect:**

a. Telephone a report to Adult Protective Services (APS) immediately or as soon as practically possible. Contact the El Dorado County Adult Protective Services Agency at (530) 642-4800 and relay the following information:

- Name of the person making the report
- Name of the victim
- DOB of the victim
- Present location of the victim
- Address of the victim
- Nature and extent of the injury
- Information that led reporting party to suspect abuse
- Any other pertinent information that may assist APS

b. Prepare a written report within 24 hours of the incident (see APS form) and forward the original copy to: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Forms-and-Brochures/2020/Q-T/SOC341.pdf?ver=2022-11-02-133527-590>

c. In the case the abuse occurred at long term care, a report must be completed with the El Dorado County Ombudsman Office. This is in conjunction with the APS report. The above APS report is sufficient for the Ombudsman Office.

El Dorado County Adult Protective Services (East and West Slope)

3057 Briw Road  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 642-4800