



People You Know.  
Extraordinary Care.

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>200.04 REPORTABLE INCIDENTS-VICTIMS OF ABUSE</b>		
<b>APPROVAL:</b>	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024</b>			<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC</b>		<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	

**I. Purpose:**

To identify the responsibility of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) pre-hospital providers to report any incidents harmful to the public good discovered while in the process of delivering patient care, and assure victims of abuse receive information regarding available resources.

**II. Policy:**

- A. There is an obligation on the part of all pre-hospital care providers and health care workers to report suspicious crimes. The nature of the injury should be considered in light of the history of the incident.
- B. Examples of crimes or suspicious incidents:
  1. Child abuse and/or neglect\*
  2. Elder abuse and/or neglect\*
  3. Abused and neglected long-term care facility residents\*
  4. Sexual assault\*
  5. Domestic violence
  6. Assault with weapon or battery
  7. Motor vehicle crash
  8. Suspicious deaths
  9. Dog/animal bites
  10. Gunshot wounds
- C. Notify appropriate agencies. The circumstances of the reportable incident should be communicated to the emergency department personnel as well. This can enhance the emergency department physician's assessment of the patient and the patient situation in order to provide appropriate care.
- D. Pre-hospital providers will offer information regarding services available to victims of abuse or for any person suspected to be a victim of domestic abuse.

**III. Procedure:**

- A. Suspected Abuse or Neglect
  1. Initial Medical/Trauma Care.
  2. Treat obvious injuries per appropriate SOP.
  3. History, physical exam, scene survey; document findings on Ambulance Run Report.
- B. Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect
  1. **Transport.** Report suspicions to ED staff upon arrival.
    - a. Transport is mandatory.
    - b. Contact Medical Control if parent/legal guardian refusing.
  2. Notify the following (**reporting is mandatory by the pre-hospital provider**):

- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline  
1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)  
1-217-785-4020

**C. Suspected Domestic/Sexual Abuse**

1. Provide victims of suspected abuse information on services available. See Domestic Crime Victim information forms.
2. Encourage them to seek medical attention.
3. If patient is a victim of suspected sexual abuse and less than 18 years of age, DCFS must be contacted by pre-hospital providers. Notify the following (**reporting is mandatory by the pre-hospital provider**):
  - Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline  
1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)  
1-217-785-4020

**D. To report Suspected Elder Abuse/Neglect, or financial exploitation**

1. Reporting is mandatory in a case of suspected elder abuse/neglect. Notify the following (**reporting is mandatory by the pre-hospital provider**):
  - Illinois Department on Aging Elder Abuse Hotline:  
1-866-800-1409
  - IDPH Nursing Home Hotline:  
1-800-252-4343

**E. Suspected Abuse/Neglect of the Mentally Ill/Developmentally Disabled**

1. Notify the following (**reporting is mandatory by the pre-hospital provider**):
  - 24-hour Adult Protective Services Hotline  
1-866-800-1409
  - For residents who live in Supportive Living Facilities, call the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services complaint Hotline  
1-800-226-0768

**F. Suspected Abuse/Neglect of Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities or Hospitals**

1. Notify the following (**reporting is mandatory by the pre-hospital provider**):
  - Illinois Department of Public Health Abuse Hotline  
1-800-252-4343

**G. Offer information of services available to victims of abuse.**

1. Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
2. Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
3. Teen Dating Abuse Helpline 1-866-331-9474 1-866-331-8453 (TTY)
4. Victim Hotline 1-855-4-Victim (855-484-2846)

**Approval:**

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**James Kirchner**                      **Date**  
**Vice President of Professional Services**

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**Kathleen Geiger MSN, RN**                      **Date**  
**Manager of EMS & Emergency Management**