

BODEGA BAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES	Article:	SOG # 2-2.7
	References:	CVEMSA Protocol 7009 Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 1560 and the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, 100159 and 100075
	Subject:	Suspected Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting

EMT's and EMT-P's, as health care practitioners, are mandated reporters and have a legal obligation to report known or suspected elder or dependent adult abuse under the following circumstances:

- When the reporter has observed an incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse
- When the reporter has observed a physical injury where the nature of the injury, its location on the body or the repetition of the injury clearly indicates that physical abuse has occurred
- When an elder or a dependent adult tells the reporter that he or she has experienced behavior constituting physical abuse.

The law encourages mandated reporters to voluntarily report known or suspected instances of other types of abuse of an elder or of a dependent adult including neglect, mental abuse, financial abuse, isolation and abandonment.

Reports made under this law are confidential. The identity of all persons making reports of elder or dependent abuse is also confidential. This information will be shared only between the investigating and licensing agencies, with the district attorney in a criminal prosecution resulting from the report, by court order, or when the reporter waives the right to remain anonymous.


When two or more persons who are required to report are present and jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of abuse of an elder or 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 the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall hereafter make the report.

Reporting is the individual responsibility of the mandated reporter. No supervisor or administrator may prohibit the filing of a required report.

Mandated reporters who report suspected cases of elder or dependent adult abuse in good faith, have absolute immunity, both civilly and criminally, for making a report of physical abuse of an elder or dependent adult. This includes taking of photographs of the victim and surroundings to submit with the report.

FAILURE TO MAKE A MANDATORY REPORT OF SUSPECTED PHYSICAL ABUSE OF AN ELDER OR DEPENDENT ADULT IS A MISDEMEANOR.

Reports of physical abuse are to be made immediately, or as soon as possible by telephone. In Sonoma County that number is 707-565-5940 or 707-526-4108 if abuse is occurring in a care facility.

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Be prepared to provide the following information for the verbal report:

1. The name, address, telephone number and occupation of the person making the report.
2. The name, address, and age of the elder or dependent adult.
3. Date, time, and place of the incident.
4. Other details, including the reporter's observations and beliefs concerning the incident.
5. Any statement relating to the incident made by the victim.
6. The name(s) of any individual(s) believed to have knowledge of the incident.
7. The name(s) of the individual(s) believed to be responsible for the incident and their connection to the victim.

You must follow up with a written report within two days.

Go to this link for a pdf fill in report: <http://cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/SOC341.pdf>

Print and sign the form and mail to:

Sonoma County APS
PO Box 1539
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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