

**South Metro Fire Department**  
**Clinical Policies and Procedures**

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Title:	Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment
Effective Date:	December 15, 2015
Authorized By:	Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director
Standard:	Patient Care and Transport
Policy:	Patient care providers shall report any suspicion of abuse, neglect, or maltreatment of both children and adults in a manner prescribed by law.

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**I. Purpose**

EMS professionals are legally required to report suspected maltreatment of any individual, vulnerable adult or child. This guideline serves to provide understanding of the requirements of the mandated reporter and to outline appropriate actions to take if there is a reasonable suspicion that maltreatment has occurred.

**II. Definitions**

A. Mandated Reporter: Include a professional or professional's delegate who is engaged in the practice of the healing arts (this includes EMS providers), social services, hospital administration, psychological or psychiatric treatment, child care, education, correctional supervision, probation and correctional services, or law enforcement.

B. Maltreatment: There are three types of maltreatment:

- Abuse - physical, emotional or sexual
- Neglect - The maltreated person does not have necessary food, shelter, clothing, health care or supervision due to neglect by a caregiver
- Vulnerable Adult - means any person 18 years of age or older who:
  - (1) is a resident or inpatient of a facility;
  - (2) receives services at or from a facility required to be licensed
  - (3) receives services from a home care provider required to be licensed
  - (4) regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction:
    - (i) that impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for the individual's own care without assistance, including the provision of food, shelter, clothing, health care, or supervision; and
    - (ii) because of the dysfunction or infirmity and the need for care or services, the individual has an impaired ability to protect the individual's self from maltreatment.

**III. Procedure**

A. Immediately report any suspicious findings to the receiving hospital (if transported).

- B. Contact law enforcement if it is reasonable to believe that an imminent threat exists or a crime has been committed.
- C. As soon as possible, report any suspicious finding to a Supervisor or On-Call Medical Director. They will provide assistance in making additional reports.
- D. Contact HEMT Dispatch to provide phone number contact for Child Protective Services or Vulnerable Adult reporting in the appropriate county.

Dakota County:

Vulnerable Adult: 651-554-6000

Child Protective Services: 952-891-7459

Either: Evenings and weekends 952-891-7171

Ramsey County:

Vulnerable Adult: 651-266-4012

Child Protective Services: 651-266-4500

Either: Evenings and weekends 651-291-6795

Washington County:

Vulnerable Adult: 651-430-6484

Child Protective Services: 651-430-6457

Either: Evenings and weekends 651-291-6795

Hennepin County:

Vulnerable Adult: 612-348-8526

Child Protective Services: 612-348-3552

Either: Evenings and weekends 612-348-8525

- E. EMS personnel should be aware of and provide the patient in private and as appropriate with the phone number of the local domestic violence program, or the National Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE.
- F. If a crew is unsure of appropriate procedures to initiate in a patient care situation where there is an allegation of violence, abuse or neglect, the crew should contact a Supervisor, law enforcement, or on-call Medical Director for advice and further instructions.
- G. What Information to Provide
  - Location of the incident
  - Name, age and address of the alleged offender
  - Name, age and address of the victims
  - Suspected nature and extent of maltreatment with supporting evidence, (e.g. bruises and location of any other injuries) that might be helpful to investigators in making a determination
  - Contact information of the mandated reporter

**IV. Special Notes**

Immunity from liability

Any person making a voluntary or mandated in accordance with law is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise result from their actions as long as they are acting in good faith in making the report.

Previous Versions: