

# LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER POLICY

Subject: <b>SUSPECTED CHILD, ELDER/DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE, AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING</b>	Original Issue Date: 4/16/02	Policy # <b>802</b>
	Supersedes:  3/27/20	Effective Date:  1/22/21
Departments Consulted: Office of Human Resources Clinical Social Services Nursing Services Support Services Patient Assessment Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)	Reviewed & Approved by: Attending Staff Association Executive Committee Senior Executive Council	Approved by:  (Signature on File) Chief Medical Officer   (Signature on File) Chief Executive Officer

## PURPOSE

To ensure that incidents of suspected or known child abuse and neglect, elder and dependent-adult abuse, and/or Intimate Partner Violence (Domestic Violence) are reported by the LAC+USC Medical Center as required by federal, State, local laws, and/or other applicable regulations.

## POLICY

### Types of Violence/Abuse:

Elder Abuse: is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. An older adult is someone age 60 or older. The abuse often occurs at the hands of a caregiver or a person the elder trusts. Common types of elder abuse include, physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, neglect and financial abuse.

Child Abuse - Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or

Child Neglect - An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm

A "child" under this definition generally means a person who is younger than age 18 or who is not an emancipated minor

Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence ---means abuse committed against an adult or a fully emancipated minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, or person with whom the suspect has had a child or is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship.

Abuse- the intentionally or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury or placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent serious bodily injury to himself or herself, or another.

Physical Abuse- means all of the following as defined in Penal Code (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15610.63):

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1. Assault
2. Battery
3. Assault with a deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury or harm
4. Unreasonable physical constraint, or prolonged or continual deprivation of food or water.
5. Sexual assault, which means any of the following:
  - a. Sexual battery
  - b. Rape
  - c. Rape in concert
  - d. Spousal rape
  - e. Incest
  - f. Sodomy
  - g. Oral copulation
  - h. Sexual penetration
  - i. Lewd or lascivious act
6. Use of physical or chemical restraint or psychotropic medication under any of the following conditions:
  - a. For punishment
  - b. For a period significantly beyond that for which the restraint or medication is authorized by provider.
  - c. For any purpose not authorized by the provider.

Employees of the LAC+USC Medical Center have a responsibility to participate in identifying and reporting cases of suspected child abuse and neglect, elder and dependent-adult abuse and Intimate Partner Violence (Domestic Violence).

Any child care custodian, medical practitioner, or non-medical practitioner shall immediately report child abuse and neglect, elder and dependent-adult abuse, and/or Intimate Partner Violence (Domestic Violence) when such abuse is suspected or becomes known while he or she is acting in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment.

Mandated reporters include physicians; surgeons; psychiatrists; dentists; nurses; social workers; marriage, family, and child counselors; administrators; employees of State or County public health agencies; and local law enforcement personnel; and others as required by federal, State, local laws, and/or other applicable regulations.

Child abuse and neglect, elder and dependent-adult abuse, and Intimate Partner Violence (Domestic Violence) reporting shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- When the reporter has observed an incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse.
- When the mandated reporter has observed a physical injury where the nature of the injury, its location on the body, or the repetition of the injury, is suspicious for physical abuse having occurred.

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- When the patient informs the reporter that he or she has been or is currently experiencing abuse or neglect. When the patient reports the infliction, or the threat of infliction, of physical harm (including sexual assault) by an intimate partner.

It is the responsibility of health care practitioners and/or other mandated reporters to ensure that all incidents of suspected or known child abuse and neglect, elder and dependent-adult abuse and/or Intimate Partner Violence (Domestic Violence) are reported in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and/or procedures.

Suspected Child Abuse contact:

LAC+USC Medical Center HUB/VIP Clinic (323) 409-3800  
DCFS Hotline (800) 540-4000

Suspected Elder Abuse contact:

LAC+USC Medical Center Geriatric Clinic (323) 409-3638

Suspected Intimate Partner Violence contact:

East Los Angeles Women's Center (800) 585-6231 located at the Historic General Hospital

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Preventing elder abuse.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/elderabuse/fastfact.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Child Welfare.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/defining/>

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Senior Executive Council

Administrators

Attending Staff

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Allied Health Professionals

Clinical and Psychiatric Social Workers

Nursing Staff

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

All Employees

## **PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION**

Medical Center Violence Intervention Program Manual

Nursing Services and Education Generic Structure Standards

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Clinical Social Services Policy and Procedure Manual  
 Department of Human Resources Policy and Procedure Manual  
 Attending Staff Manual  
 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Manual of Policy and Procedures

**REFERENCES**

California Health and Safety Code, Section 1281  
 California Penal Code, Section 13823.9  
 California Penal Code Sections, 11166 and 13700  
 California Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 15632  
 Department of Human Resources Policy 622  
 DHS Policy #s 263, Suspected Child Abuse; 295, Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Preventing elder abuse.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/elderabuse/fastfact.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Child Welfare.  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/defining/>

**REVISION DATES**

April 16, 2002; October 16, 2008; February 11, 2014; March 14, 2017; March 27, 2020;  
 January 22, 2021