



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

OUTPATIENT SERVICES: MOBILE CLINIC

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Child Abuse and Elderly/Dependent Abuse Reporting Policy

Policy No.: 105
Supersedes: New
Revision Date: February 3, 2022
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PURPOSE

To provide guidance and outline procedures for Mobile Clinics Workforce members on mandatory reporting of known or suspected child abuse and elder/dependent abuse.

POLICY:

All workforce members employed or assigned to work at Rancho are considered mandated reporters of abuse or negligence to the appropriate agency. Mobile Clinic staff must report any of the following:

- Has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be physical or sexual abuse, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect; or
- Is told by patient, family, or significant other that patient has experienced behavior constituting physical or sexual abuse, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse or neglect; or
- Reasonably suspects abuse or neglect. Confirmation of abuse is not required.

Reporting is the individual observer's responsibility. No supervisor or administrator may prohibit the filing of a required report nor should the individual rely on others to report. The individual will not be subject to discipline for reporting in good faith.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Abuse is an infliction of physical or psychological harm including physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction or other treatment resulting physical harm or pain, or mental suffering, or the deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering.

Physical Abuse: includes any of the following:

- Assault
- Battery
- Assault with deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury
- Unreasonable physical constraint, or prolonged continual deprivation of food or water
- Sexual assault including sexual battery, rape, rape in concert, spousal rape, incest, sodomy, oral copulation, sexual penetration, lewd or lascivious act

EFFECTIVE DATE:

3/1/22

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

APPROVED BY:

Ben Davis

- Use of physical or chemical restraint or psychotropic medication for punishment or for a period beyond instruction by medical provider, or for any purpose not authorized by physician

Neglect: includes any of the following:

- Failure of caregiver to exercise degree of care that a reasonable person would exercise.
- Failure of elder or dependent adult to exercise self-care. This also includes persons with poor cognitive functions, mental limitation, substance abuse or chronic poor health.
- Failure to assist in personal hygiene, or in the provision of food, clothing or shelter
- Failure to provide medical care of physical and mental health needs.
- Failure to protect from health and safety hazards.
- Failure to prevent malnutrition or dehydration.

2. Elder is a person 65 years of age or older.

3. Dependent Adult is a person between ages 18 to 64 with physical or mental limitations such as physical or developmental disabilities or age-diminished physical or mental abilities. This also includes any person between the ages 18-64 who is admitted as an inpatient in an acute care hospital.

4. Child is a person under the age of 18 years.

- **Child Abuse or Neglect** – includes physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse, neglect, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child (child endangerment), and unlawful corporal punishment or injury
- **Sexual Abuse** – includes sexual assault or physical exploitation including sexual battery, rape, rape in concert, spousal rape, incest, sodomy, oral copulation, sexual penetration, lewd or lascivious act. as defined in Section 11165.1
- **Neglect** – the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. The term includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person. This includes those situations of neglect where any person willfully causes or permits the person or health of the child to be placed in a situation such that his or her person or health is endangered, including the intentional failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or appropriate supervision.
- **Willful Harming or Injuring/Endangering** – any person who causes or permits any child to suffer, inflicts thereon, unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or in having the care and custody of any child, willfully causes or permits the person or health of the child to be placed in a situation in which his or her person or health is endangered.

Procedure:

Any Mobile clinic workforce member who observes or reasonably suspects abuse or neglect shall follow the following procedure:

1. Confirm that the patient is safe and medical needs are addressed
2. Create a safe and confidential space to provide and or collect additional info as needed
3. Inform patient that you are a mandated reporter
4. Notify and Consult with Senior Clinical Social Worker for referral and follow up as needed.
5. **For Child Abuse:**

Call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-540-4000** If report is made:
Complete report online within 24 hrs. after obtaining reference number at:

<https://dcfs.lacounty.gov/>

6. For Elderly Dependent Abuse:

Call Adult Protective Services **1-877-477-3646** If report is made:
Complete report online within 24 hrs. after obtaining reference number at

<https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/services/older-dependent-adult-services/adult-protective-services-aps/>

7. Document information and actions taken in ORCHID within 24 hrs.
8. Notify medical providers
9. Notify immediate supervisor or another supervisor if your immediate supervisor is not available
10. Enter a Safety Intelligence (SI) event report before the shift ends or as soon as possible. If the allegation of child abuse or elderly dependent abuse was made against mobile staff or contract staff, immediately notify Regulatory Accreditation Director or Risk Manager at (562)385-7900.
11. Debrief with supervisor and CSW for any follow up and/or resources

NOTE: Report to local law enforcement as applicable.

Note: It is not our job to prove the abuse, but we are mandated to report.