

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES IN CASES TO BE REPORTED TO OR POLICY NO. 436
INVESTIGATED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

PURPOSE

To identify the cases that require law enforcement notification and the process for making such notification.

POLICY

Certain cases arriving at the Medical Center require the intervention of personnel from on-site Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) station and/or personnel from other law enforcement agencies. Initially it is the responsibility of LASD to make these notifications and to insure that the proper agency is notified and action taken based on the circumstances.

PROCEDURE

I. CASES TO BE REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

Law enforcement authorities are to be notified through the LASD's on-campus station of the admission or treatment of any person suffering from injuries arising from a suspected unlawful act, whether self-inflicted or due to violence on the part of another, either admitted or apparent, including suspicious circumstances.

A. Emergency Room, Wards and all Clinics

1. The Physician-in-charge (or designee) is to notify the LASD on-campus station – by telephone at extension 3311 or other appropriate means -- by dialing "0" to reach the operator, and request the presence of LASD personnel to make all written reports and contact all outside law enforcement agencies. The types of cases referred include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Coroner's cases.
 - b. Physical trauma victims, whether self-inflicted or at the hands of another - (Typically referred to as gun shot wound, stab wound, beating, etc.).
 - c. Dead on arrival (DOA's).
 - d. Child abuse, neglect or endangerment cases.
 - e. Domestic violence cases.
 - f. Any other case which the physician believes should be reported to law enforcement authority.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/21/86

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 9/89, 2/02, 5/10, 8/11, 3/13, 4/17

REVIEWED: 8/86, 8/89, 10/92, 2/96, 2/99, 2/02, 2/05, 1/08, 5/10, 4/17

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2. In suspected cases of criminally induced abortion, child neglect or abuse (usually identified after the patient has reached the ward), the Resident Physician in charge shall notify the LASD on-campus station if law enforcement investigation is indicated.
3. Personnel shall notify the LASD on-campus station promptly of all instances of suspected violence, the escape of a confined patient, or the absence of a patient from a ward without permission or leave.

II. CASES TO BE INVESTIGATED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

All law enforcement officers or telephone calls from law enforcement officers are to be referred to the LASD on-campus station. The LASD on-campus Watch Sergeant/designee will provide the visiting Law Enforcement officers a pass to present to the Charge Nurse to interview a patient.