


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting**

	Effective: 06/01/2018	Next Review: 03/2021	<b>830</b>
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: Victoria Pinette – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

**PURPOSE:**

To establish guidelines for the identification of suspected child abuse/neglect and requirements/procedures for EMS personnel to report such suspicions.

**AUTHORITY:**

California Penal Code, Ch. 916 (Part 4, Title 1, Chapter 2, Article 2.5) § 11164 - 11174.3.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Agencies authorized to accept mandated reports: Police Department, Sheriff's Department, and Child Protective Services (CPS). School District Police and security departments are not included.
- B. Child: Any person under the age of eighteen (18).
- C. Mandated reporter: Includes, but not limited to: paid firefighters, EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, paramedics, teachers, peace officers, any healthcare practitioner, clergy member, child care custodian, or an employee of a child protective agency.
- D. Neglect: The negligent failure of a parent or caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical/dental care, or supervision.
- E. Physical abuse: A physical injury, including death, to a child that appears to have been inflicted by other than accidental means.
- F. Sexual abuse: Sexual assault on, or the exploitation of a minor. Sexual assault includes: rape, rape in concert (aiding or abetting or acting in concert with another person in the commission of a rape), incest, sodomy, oral copulation, penetration of genital or anal opening by a foreign object, and child molestation. It also includes lewd or lascivious conduct with a child under the age of fourteen years, which may apply to any lewd touching if done with the intent of arousing or gratifying the sexual desires of either the person involved or the child. Sexual exploitation refers to conduct or activities related to pornography depicting minors, and promoting prostitution by minors.

**PRINCIPLES:**

- A. The purpose of reporting suspected child abuse/neglect is to protect the child, prevent further abuse/neglect of the child and other children in the home, and begin treatment of the entire family. The infliction of injury/neglect, rather than the degree of that injury/neglect, is the determinant for intervention by law enforcement and/or CPS.
- B. California Penal Code, § 11166 and 11168, requires that mandated reporters promptly report all suspected non-accidental injuries, sexual abuse, or neglect of children to local law enforcement and/or CPS.
- C. It is the job of law enforcement, CPS and the courts to determine whether child abuse/neglect has, in fact, occurred. It is not necessary for the mandated reporter to determine child abuse/neglect, but only to suspect that it may have occurred. Children under the age of five, especially less than six months, are at highest risk.
- D. Under current law, all healthcare professionals are mandated to report suspected child abuse/neglect that they have knowledge of or observe in their professional capacity. Any person who fails to report as required may be punished by six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
- E. When a mandated reporter has knowledge of or has observed child abuse/neglect, that individual is required to report to law enforcement and/or CPS immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone, and shall complete/submit the suspected child abuse/neglect report form within 36 hours.
- F. When two or more mandated reporters are present at scene and jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse/neglect, the telephone report can be made by a selected member and a single written report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the designated reporter failed to uphold their agreement, shall thereafter make the report. If EMS personnel are not selected as the designated reporter, they shall document the name and agency of the appointed team member in their prehospital documentation to indicate that the reporting obligation has been met.
- G. When a mandated reporter is not performing their job duties, they become discretionary reporters and are not required by law to report.
- H. Those persons legally required to report suspected child abuse/neglect have immunity from criminal or civil liability for reporting as required.

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**POLICY:**

- A. If EMS personnel suspect child abuse or neglect, a prompt verbal report shall be made to both law enforcement and CPS. If the child is in imminent danger, law enforcement shall be immediately notified.
1. EMS personnel should be aware of their local law enforcement reporting procedures and telephone numbers for notification.
  2. To make a verbal report to CPS, call the applicable county CPS office using the appropriate 24 hour contact telephone number listed in this policy.
- B. The suspected child abuse/neglect report shall be completed according to the instructions on the back of the form. The report shall be filled out as completely and clearly as possible. The completed form shall be submitted to law enforcement and CPS within 36 hours. A copy of the report should also be retained by the reporting party. Electronic versions of the form and form instructions can be obtained at the following links:
1. Reporting form: [http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss\\_8572.pdf](http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf)
  2. Form instructions: [http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/8572\\_instruct.pdf](http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/8572_instruct.pdf)
- C. The following information shall also be included in the prehospital documentation:
1. The name, department and badge number of the law enforcement officer and/or the name of the CPS social worker.
  2. Time of notification.
  3. Disposition of child if not transported.

**Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting Contact Information**

<b>Butte County</b>	<b>Colusa County</b>
<u>Chico Area (North County)</u> Child Protective Services: (888) 268-8822 2445 Carmichael Drive Chico, CA 95928 <u>Oroville Area (South County)</u> Child Protective Services: (800) 400-0902 78 Table Mountain Blvd. Oroville, CA 95965	Child Protective Services: (530) 458-0280 251 East Webster St Colusa, CA 95932
<b>Glenn County</b>	<b>Nevada County</b>
Child Welfare Services: (530) 934-1429 420 E. Laurel Street Willows, CA 95988	Child Protective Services: (530) 273-4291 988 McCourtney Rd Grass Valley, CA 95949
<b>Placer County</b>	<b>Shasta County</b>
Family & Children Services: (916) 872-6549 1000 Sunset Blvd Rocklin, CA 95765	Child Protective Services: (530) 225-5144 1313 Yuba Street Redding, CA 96001
<b>Siskiyou County</b>	<b>Sutter County</b>
Child Protective Services: (530) 841-4200 1215 South Main Street Yreka, CA 96097	Child Protective Services: (530) 822-7227 1635 Live Oak Blvd Yuba City, CA 95991
<b>Tehama County</b>	<b>Yuba County</b>
Child Protective Services: (530) 527-1911 310 South Main Street Red Bluff, CA 96080	Child Protective Services: (530) 749-6288 5730 Packard Avenue, Suite 100 Marysville, CA 95901