

Domestic or Elder Abuse / Neglect

Overview: Illinois law establishes requirements that any person licensed, certified or otherwise authorized to provide health care shall offer immediate and adequate information regarding services available to abuse and neglect victims. Abuse is defined as physical, mental or sexual injury to a child or an eligible adult. An eligible elder is a person 60 years of age or older who resides with another individual suspected of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation. An eligible domestic partner is defined as a spouse or person who resides in a domestic living situation with another individual suspected of abuse. EMS personnel should not rely on another mandated reporter to file a report on the victims' behalf.

First Responder Care and BLS (NT) Care should be focused on assessing the situation, initiating care and assure scene and personal safety.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the Routine Patient Care Protocol. Treat obvious injuries or illnesses.
2. Maintain control of the scene. Call law enforcement personnel to scene.
3. Survey scene for evidence of factors that could adversely affect the patient's welfare:
 - a. Environmental
 - b. Interaction with family members
 - c. Discrepancies in history of events
 - d. Injury patterns that do not correlate with the history of patient use and mobility
 - e. Signs of intentional injury or emotional harm.

BLS/ ILS/ ALS Care should be directed at directed at conducting a thorough patient assessment, initiating Routine Patient Care Protocol and determining medical and mental health needs.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the Routine Patient Care Protocol and BLS care as above.
2. Initiate transport as soon as possible.

Reporting Methods: The following information / telephone numbers regarding services available to victims of abuse shall be offered to all victims of abuse, whether they are treated and transported, or refuse treatment and transport to a hospital:

Child Abuse and neglect reporting: 1-800-252-2873

Elderly Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-8966 M-F 8:30- 5:00

1-800- 279-0400 evenings, weekends, holidays

Crime Victims Compensation Program 1-800-228-3368

- If offender is present and interferes with transportation of the patient or is influencing the patient's acceptance of medical care, contact police and Medical Control for consultation on appropriate action.
- Upon arrival, notify the receiving physician or nurse of the suspected abuse. Illinois law mandates healthcare workers (including EMTs) report cases of suspected abuse or neglect.
- Thoroughly document the history and physical exam findings on the Prehospital Report.

HOW SHOULD MANDATED REPORTERS MAKE REPORTS?

Call the child abuse hotline as soon as possible. Then you must send written confirmation to the appropriate DCFS field office within 48 hours. The Department will provide a form to use when sending this confirmation. If you suspect a child's death may have been caused by abuse or neglect, you must also call your county's coroner or medical examiner.

NOTICE

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the Department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. A first violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment for up to one year, or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by both such term and fine. A second or subsequent violation is a Class 4 felony.