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POLICY No.: 113	EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/15/09
APPROVED BY: <i>J. E. Felding</i>	SUPERSEDES: DHS Policy No. 295

PURPOSE: To state the Department's policy for reporting elder/dependent adult abuse.

POLICY: All Department of Public Health (DPH) employees have the responsibility to participate in identifying and reporting cases of suspect elder/dependent adult abuse. Health care professionals, including medical and non-medical practitioners, shall report all cases of suspect elder/dependent adult abuse as required by law.

Liaison with Adult Protective Services, DPSS, shall be maintained by the DPH.

GUIDE: Identification
DPH is responsible for the identification of suspected elder/dependent adult abuse for all persons who present to its facilities. Adult abuse is defined as any act of omission or commission that endangers or impairs a person's physical or emotional health. This includes physical abuse, mental suffering, physical neglect, medical neglect, abandonment, inadequate supervision and sexual assault.

Reporting

Health Care professionals shall report suspected elder/dependent adult abuse to the appropriate agencies designated to receive such reports by telephone immediately and in writing within 36 hours of making the observation.

The agency designated to receive such reports is the Adult Protective Services Office of the Department of Public Social Services. The report shall include identifying information which will enable the Department of Public Social Services to make an evaluation of the report.

Statement of Knowledge

All new employees shall be asked to sign a dependent adult abuse reporting statement. For those persons covered by the reporting law, execution of the statement is a condition of and pre-requisite to employment with the Department. Current Public Health employees will be made aware of the reporting requirements at the time of the annual performance evaluation.

Treatment and Medical Follow-Up

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Department facilities shall provide first aid, as necessary, and refer the individual to a facility for treatment that will ensure the adult's physical well-being.

—AUTHORITY: Chapter 1273, Statutes of 1983 and Chapters 1120 and 1164, Status of 1985. Section 9380 through 9386 and Sections 15610, 15620 and 5621 of California Welfare and Institutions Code.