

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Reporting Child Abuse



Department: Operations

SOP#112

Applicable to: All Staff

Effective Date: 1 July 2020

2 Pages

Authority: Chief of Operations

Applicable CAAS Standard:

Revised Effective Date:

Purpose:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) is to outline the position of Brighton Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) regarding reporting of suspected Child Abuse, in accordance with Article 6, Title 6, § 413 of the NYS Social Services Law.

Scope:

The scope of this document applies to all providers, for compliance with NYS Consolidated Laws, emergency medical personnel, when acting in an official capacity, must report suspected cases of child abuse or maltreatment when they are presented with a reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment. Reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment means that, based on your rational observations, professional training and experience, you have a suspicion that the parent or other person legally responsible for a child, is responsible for harming that child or placing that child in imminent danger of harm. Your suspicion can be as simple as distrusting an explanation for an injury.

Guideline:

Abstract Definitions:

1. **Child Abuse - see also N.Y.S. Family Court Act § 1012(e)**
 - a. An “abused child” is a child less than eighteen years of age whose parent or other person legally responsible for his care:
 - i. Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child serious physical injury, or
 - ii. Creates or allows to be created a substantial risk of physical injury, or
 - iii. Commits sexual abuse against the child or allows sexual abuse to be committed.
2. **Child Maltreatment - see also N.Y.S. Family Court Act, § 1012(f)**
 - a. A “maltreated child” is a child under eighteen years of age whose physical, mental or emotional condition has been impaired or is in imminent danger of becoming impaired as a result of the failure of his parent or other person legally responsible for his care to exercise a minimum degree of care:
 - i. in supplying the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, medical or surgical care, though financially able to do so or offered financial or other reasonable means to do so; or
 - ii. in providing the child with proper supervision or guardianship; or
 - iii. by unreasonably inflicting, or allowing to be inflicted, harm or a substantial risk thereof, including the infliction of excessive corporal punishment; or

This document supersedes any documents on the topic dated prior to the effective date noted above.

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- iv. by misusing a drug or drugs; or
 - v. by misusing alcoholic beverages to the extent that he loses self-control of his actions; or
 - vi. by any other acts of a similarly serious nature requiring the aid of the Family Court; or
 - vii. By abandoning the child.

Steps to follow upon suspicion of abuse or maltreatment:

1. As soon as possible, usually post response, the provider must report their concerns by telephone to the New York State Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). The telephone number is (800) 635-1522.
2. Oral reports to the SCR from a mandated reporter must be followed by a written report to the local Department of Social Services child protective services on form LDSS-2221A. A copy of this form and current mailing address can be found by visiting: www.ocfs.state.ny.us or directly to the report by here ([LDSS-2221A Form](#)) Written reports must be completed and submitted to the Shift Supervisor prior to end of shift.
3. A special report in emsCharts must be completed detailing the circumstances of the suspicion. The Shift Supervisor will ensure LDSS-2221A is completely filled out and that it is mailed to the appropriate DSS office. A copy of form LDSS-2221A is to be placed in the Deputy Chief's mailbox.

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