

Methodist Health Services Corporation UnityPoint Health- Proctor	Page # 1 of 3	Section:	Policy #: 23
	Approved by:		Date: 6/2017 Review by: 6/2018
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	Primary Responsible Parties: Dr. Ashley N. Huff Secondary Responsible Parties:		
	Joint Commission Standard:		
SUBJECT: REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CRIMES AND CRIME SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES			

- I. POLICY:
Reporting of Suspected Crimes and Crime Scene Responsibilities
- II. PURPOSE AND STANDARD:
- III. POLICY SCOPE: Departmental
- IV. GENERAL INFORMATION:
 - A. The First Responder, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P, or Pre-hospital RN is required to report certain crimes when they become aware of these crimes or reasonably suspect that one of these crimes has occurred. In addition, the First Responder, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P, or Pre-hospital RN must endeavor to provide optimum patient care while protecting evidence present at a crime scene.
 - 1. In cases of suspected child abuse/neglect or elder abuse/neglect the EMS responder is required to report suspected crimes to certain agencies. The EMS responder is required to report to the appropriate agency in the following cases:
 - a. **Suspected child abuse or neglect** -The EMS responder must report the suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) at **1-800-252-2873** and local law enforcement.
 - i. The [Manual for Mandated Reporters](#) is a good source for additional information regarding Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting.
 - ii. Online Training on recognizing and reporting Child Abuse and Neglect may be obtained at [Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Mandated Reporters](#).
 - iii. ***Failure to report suspected Child Abuse or Child Neglect is a Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation. ([Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act](#))***
 - b. **Suspected elderly abuse or neglect** -The EMS responder must report suspected elder abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of older persons

- who they believe are unable, due to dysfunction, to report for themselves, to the Elder Abuse Hotline at **1-866-800-1409**.
- i. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding Elder Abuse are available at the [Break the Silence FAQ site](#).
 - ii. ***Failure to report suspected elder abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation is a Class A misdemeanor.*** ([Elder Abuse and Neglect Act](#))
 - c. EMS responder's should also contact local law enforcement.
 2. It is the duty of EMS personnel to notify the local law enforcement agency when it is reasonable suspected that the patient receiving treatment by the EMS responder:
 - a. Has any injury resulting from the discharge of a firearm; or
 - b. Has any injury sustained in the commission of or is a victim of a crime
 3. In cases of suspected Domestic Abuse, the EMS responder is not mandated to report the suspected abuse unless items 1(a), 1(b) or 2(a) are applicable. **The EMS responder is required to offer immediate and adequate information regarding services available to victims of abuse for any person suspected to be a victim of domestic abuse.** (Article IV of the [Illinois Domestic Violence Act](#))
 - a. In order to be compliant with this Act, the EMS responder must have readily available on their vehicle or person adequate information regarding services available locally to victims of abuse. See Center for Prevention of Abuse (Peoria) website or [Illinois Violence Prevention Authority website](#) for more information and resources to obtain materials.
 - b. Information must be provided discretely to the suspected victim.
 - c. The victim has the right to refuse reporting the incident, and to refuse transport. The victim still must be provided the information regarding services available to victims of abuse.
 - d. Always proceed with caution and consider law enforcement support as these situations may turn violent, including attack of the EMS responder by the victim themselves.
 4. Upon arrival at the suspected crime scene, note the following.
 - a. Immediately notify the police or call your dispatcher to do so.
 - b. If the victim is obviously dead, then he or she should remain undisturbed. Even the position of the body can provide valuable clues.
 5. Do not touch, move, or relocate any item at the scene unless absolutely necessary to provide treatment to an injured victim. You should mark the location of any item that must be moved so the police can determine its original position.
 6. Do not allow onlookers or other unauthorized personnel on the premises of the crime.
 7. Observe and note anything unusual, especially if the evidence may not be present when the police arrive. This may include smoke and odors.

8. Give immediate care to the patient. Remember, your role is to provide emergency care.
9. Keep detailed records of the incident including your observations of the victim and the scene of the crime. In many felony cases, EMS personnel are called to testify since they were first on the scene, and lack of records about the case can be professionally embarrassing.
10. Once the police arrive you should leave or at least not hinder their work, however, you should give them any information you believe would be useful.