



SUMMARY OF DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE REPORTING LAW Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15630

Reporting Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse and Neglect

Mandated Reporter

California mandated reporters of elder and dependent adult abuse include but are not limited to:

- Care custodians - which includes day program providers, ILS providers, Supported Living Providers, Regional Center Case Managers
- Health care practitioners including dentist, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental assistants
- Designated employees of adult protective services agencies
- Designated employees of local law enforcement agencies

Any "direct care professional" (person employed to work directly with a regional center consumer) must report signs of abuse or neglect of a regional center consumer to the proper authorities, under penalty of law.

Abuse Definitions from California Welfare and Institutions Code

15610.07. "Abuse of an elder or a dependent adult" means either of the following:

(a) Physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering.

(b) The deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering.

15610.23. (a) "Dependent adult" means any person residing in this state, between the ages of 18 and 64 years, who has physical or mental limitations that restrict his or her ability to carry out normal activities or to protect his or her rights including, but not limited to, persons who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.

(b) "Dependent adult" includes any person between the ages of 18 and 64 who is admitted as an inpatient to a 24-hour health facility, as defined in Sections 1250, 1250.2, and 1250.3 of the Health and Safety Code.

15610.30. (a) "Financial abuse" of an elder or dependent adult occurs when a person or entity does any of the following:

(1) Takes, secretes, appropriates, or retains real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult to a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both.

(2) Assists in taking, secreting, appropriating, or retaining real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult to a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both.

(b) A person or entity shall be deemed to have taken, secreted, appropriated, or retained property for a wrongful use if, among other

things, the person or entity takes, secretes, appropriates or retains possession of property in bad faith.

(1) A person or entity shall be deemed to have acted in bad faith if the person or entity knew or should have known that the elder or dependent adult had the right to have the property transferred or made readily available to the elder or dependent adult or to his or her representative.

(2) For purposes of this section, a person or entity should have known of a right specified in paragraph (1) if, on the basis of the information received by the person or entity or the person or entity's authorized third party, or both, it is obvious to a reasonable person that the elder or dependent adult has a right specified in paragraph (1).

(c) For purposes of this section, "representative" means a person or entity that is either of the following:

(1) A conservator, trustee, or other representative of the estate of an elder or dependent adult.

(2) An attorney-in-fact of an elder or dependent adult who acts within the authority of the power of attorney.

15610.35. "Goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering" include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(a) The provision of medical care for physical and mental health needs.

(b) Assistance in personal hygiene.

(c) Adequate clothing.

(d) Adequately heated and ventilated shelter.

(e) Protection from health and safety hazards.

(f) Protection from malnutrition, under those circumstances where the results include, but are not limited to, malnutrition and deprivation of necessities or physical punishment.

(g) Transportation and assistance necessary to secure any of the needs set forth in subdivisions (a) to (f), inclusive.

15610.43. (a) "Isolation" means any of the following:

(1) Acts intentionally committed for the purpose of preventing, and that do serve to prevent, an elder or dependent adult from receiving his or her mail or telephone calls.

(2) Telling a caller or prospective visitor that an elder or dependent adult is not present, or does not wish to talk with the caller, or does not wish to meet with the visitor where the statement is false, is contrary to the express wishes of the elder or the dependent adult, whether he or she is competent or not, and is made for the purpose of preventing the elder or dependent adult from having contact with family, friends, or concerned persons.

(3) False imprisonment, as defined in Section 236 of the Penal Code.

(4) Physical restraint of an elder or dependent adult, for the purpose of preventing the elder or dependent adult from meeting with visitors.

(b) The acts set forth in subdivision (a) shall be subject to a rebuttable presumption that they do not constitute isolation if they are performed pursuant to the instructions of a physician and surgeon

licensed to practice medicine in the state, who is caring for the elder or dependent adult at the time the instructions are given, and who gives the instructions as part of his or her medical care.

(c) The acts set forth in subdivision (a) shall not constitute isolation if they are performed in response to a reasonably perceived threat of danger to property or physical safety.

15610.53. "Mental suffering" means fear, agitation, confusion, severe depression, or other forms of serious emotional distress that is brought about by forms of intimidating behavior, threats, harassment, or by deceptive acts performed or false or misleading statements made with malicious intent to agitate, confuse, frighten, or cause severe depression or serious emotional distress of the elder or dependent adult.

15610.57. (a) "Neglect" means either of the following:

(1) The negligent failure of any person having the care or custody of an elder or a dependent adult to exercise that degree of care that a reasonable person in a like position would exercise.

(2) The negligent failure of the person themselves to exercise that degree of care that a reasonable person in a like position would exercise.

(b) Neglect includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Failure to assist in personal hygiene, or in the provision of food, clothing, or shelter.

(2) Failure to provide medical care for physical and mental health needs. No person shall be deemed neglected or abused for the sole reason that he or she voluntarily relies on treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in lieu of medical treatment.

(3) Failure to protect from health and safety hazards.

(4) Failure to prevent malnutrition or dehydration.

(5) Failure of a person to provide the needs specified in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, for themselves due to ignorance, illiteracy, incompetence, mental limitation, substance abuse, or poor health.

15610.63. "Physical abuse" means any of the following:

(a) Assault, as defined in Section 240 of the Penal Code.

(b) Battery, as defined in Section 242 of the Penal Code.

(c) Assault with a deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury, as defined in Section 245 of the Penal Code.

(d) Unreasonable physical constraint, or prolonged or continual deprivation of food or water.

(e) Sexual assault, that means any of the following:

(1) Sexual battery, as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.

(2) Rape, as defined in Section 261 of the Penal Code.

(3) Rape in concert, as described in Section 264.1 of the Penal Code.

(4) Spousal rape, as defined in Section 262 of the Penal Code.

(5) Incest, as defined in Section 285 of the Penal Code.

(6) Sodomy, as defined in Section 286 of the Penal Code.

(7) Oral copulation, as defined in Section 288a of the Penal Code.

(8) Sexual penetration, as defined in Section 289 of the Penal Code.

(f) Use of a physical or chemical restraint or psychotropic medication under any of the following conditions:

(1) For punishment.

(2) For a period beyond that for which the medication was ordered pursuant to the instructions of a physician and surgeon licensed in the State of California, who is providing medical care to the elder or dependent adult at the time the instructions are given.

(3) For any purpose not authorized by the physician and surgeon.

15610.65. "Reasonable suspicion" means an objectively reasonable suspicion that a person would entertain, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate upon his or her training and experience, to suspect abuse.

IF YOU:

- Observe an incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse/neglect/financial abuse; or
- Observe a physical injury/neglect which clearly *indicates* physical abuse/neglect/financial abuse has occurred; or
- Are told by a regional center consumer that he or she has experienced behavior constituting physical abuse/neglect or financial abuse.

California mandated reporters are required to report immediately (24 hours) by telephone and in writing, using the Department of Social Services form SOC 341 *Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse*, for each incident and each victim of suspected physical abuse

YOU MUST REPORT THE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ABUSE/NEGLECT TO BOTH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT and the DESIGNATED LICENSING AGENCY OR APS WHEN THERE ISN'T A DESIGNATED LICENSING AGENCY:

- The long-term care ombudsman, Health Care Licensing and law enforcement when the known or suspected abuse/neglect occurred in a long-term care facility or an Intermediate Care Facility;
- Community Care Licensing and law enforcement when the known or suspected abuse occurred in a Licensed Program or Residence;
- Adult Protective Services or law enforcement when the known or suspected abuse occurred in an unlicensed program, residence, or family home

California mandated reporters are provided immunity from civil and criminal liability as a result of making a required or authorized report of known or suspected abuse.

Failure to report as required is a misdemeanor, punishable up to six months in the county jail, by a fine of not more than \$1000, or both by a fine and imprisonment (if significant injury occurred the fine and prison terms almost double).

The identity of reporters is confidential and is disclosed only to authorized agencies. Violation of this confidentiality is also a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in the county jail, a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by both a fine and imprisonment.

It is not sufficient to simply report to your supervisor or administrator, although internal procedures for reporting to such persons may be established as long as they are consistent with YOUR OBLIGATION to report to outside authorities



I hereby acknowledge I have read and received a copy of the foregoing provisions of Section 15630 of The Welfare and Institutions Code and affirm that I will comply with its provisions.

Employee Name (Print)

Employee Signature

Date