



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

MEMORANDUM

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PERSONNEL

To: All Licensed EMS Agencies

From: Jennifer L. Paddock, Director
Division of EMS and Trauma

Date: November 18, 2011

Re: Mandatory Abuse/Neglect Reporting Requirements

Recent news articles have generated a lot of discussion regarding the statutory provisions for EMS responders to report suspected abuse or neglect. It has been common practice for EMTs to report their suspicions to hospital personnel with the expectation that hospital personnel will file the official report. However, this practice does not meet the statutory requirement for reporting and does not release the EMT/EMS Agency from liability. Mandatory reporters are personally responsible for making the report to the appropriate official.

EMS Agencies are encouraged to develop policies for personnel to follow when they encounter these mandatory reporting situations. Some agencies may wish to have personnel contact their supervisor prior to making the report while others might want the report to be made first. EMS Agencies need to ensure that personnel are aware of their statutory obligations as well as provide them with the appropriate contact information for making a report.

Attached are two documents that provide a comprehensive overview of the mandatory reporting requirements regarding children, elders and the disabled. Please utilize these documents to develop policies and distribute them to your personnel.

Encl. RAINN Reporting Requirements Elders/Disabled
Children's Law Office Information for Mandatory Reporters

JLP