

APPENDIX to CVPD PDM 326

326.5 CVPD protocol for investigations and reporting

Investigations and reports related to suspected cases of elder and dependent adult abuse should address, as applicable:

- (a) The overall basis for the contact. This should be done by the investigating officer in all circumstances where a suspected elder and dependent adult abuse victim is contacted.
- (b) Any relevant statements the victim may have made and to whom he/she made the statements.
- (c) If a person is taken into protective custody, the reasons, the name and title of the person making the decision, and why other alternatives were not appropriate.
- (d) Documentation of any visible injuries or any injuries identified by the victim. This should include photographs of such injuries, if practicable.
- (e) Whether the victim was transported for medical treatment or a medical examination.
- (f) Whether the victim identified a household member as the alleged perpetrator, and a list of the names of any other potential victims or witnesses who may reside in the Residence.
- (g) Identification of any prior related reports or allegations of abuse, including other jurisdictions, as reasonably known.
- (h) Previous addresses of the victim and suspect.
- (i) Other potential witnesses who have not yet been interviewed, such as relatives or others close to the victim's environment.
- (j) Witness and suspect statements if available.
- (k) Review of all portable audio/video recorders, devices, BWC, and other available video.
- (l) Call history related to the elder or dependent adult including calls from mandated reporters or other individuals.
- (m) Whether the abuse is related to a disability-bias hate crime and related bias motivations (Penal Code § 368.6) (see the Hate Crimes Policy for additional guidance).
- (n) Results of investigations shall be provided to those agencies (Adult Protective Services (APS), long-term ombudsman) that referred or reported the elder or dependent adult abuse (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15640(f)).
- (o) Whether a death involved the End of Life Option Act:
 - 1. Whether or not assistance was provided to the person beyond that allowed by law (Health and Safety Code § 443.14).
 - 2. Whether an individual knowingly altered or forged a request for an aid-in-dying drug to end a person's life without his/her authorization, or concealed

or destroyed a withdrawal or rescission of a request for an aid-in-dying drug (Health and Safety Code § 443.17).

3. Whether coercion or undue influence was exerted on the person to request or ingest an aid-in-dying drug or to destroy a withdrawal or rescission of a request for such medication (Health and Safety Code § 443.17).
4. Whether an aid-in-dying drug was administered to a person without his/her knowledge or consent (Health and Safety Code § 443.17).

Any unexplained death of an adult who was in the care of a guardian or caretaker should be considered as potential elder or dependent adult abuse and investigated similarly.

An unexplained or suspicious death of an elder, dependent adult, or other adult or child with a disability should be treated as a potential homicide until a complete investigation including an autopsy is completed, and it should not be assumed that the death of an elder or person with a disability is natural simply because of the age or disability of the deceased (Penal Code § 368.6(c)(18)).

326.8 CVPD protocol for mandatory notification

Members of the Chula Vista Police Department shall notify the local office of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) APS agency when they reasonably suspect, have observed, or have knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be abuse of an elder or dependent adult, or are told by an elder or dependent adult that he/she has experienced abuse (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).

Notification shall be made by telephone as soon as practicable and a written report shall be provided within two working days as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)(e)).

Notification shall also be made to the following agencies as soon as practicable or as provided below (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630):

- (a) If the abuse is physical abuse and occurred in a long-term care facility (not a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center), notification shall be made as follows (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)(1)):
 1. If there is serious bodily injury, notification shall be made by telephone and, within two hours, a written report shall be made to the local ombudsman and the corresponding licensing agency.
 2. If there is physical abuse and no serious bodily injury, notification shall be made by telephone and, within 24 hours, a written report shall be made to the local ombudsman and the corresponding licensing agency.
 3. If the abuse is allegedly caused by a resident with dementia and there is no serious bodily injury, notification shall be made by telephone and a written report to the local ombudsman within 24 hours.

4. When a report of abuse is received by the Department, the local ombudsman shall be called to coordinate efforts to provide the most immediate and appropriate response (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).
 - (b) If the abuse is in a long-term care facility (not a state mental health or a state developmental center) and is other than physical abuse, a telephone report and a written report shall be made to the local ombudsman as soon as practicable (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).
 - (c) The California Department of Public Health (DPH) shall be notified of all known or suspected abuse in a long-term care facility.
 - (d) The SDSS shall be notified of all known or suspected abuse occurring in a residential care facility for the elderly or in an adult day program.
 - (e) If the abuse occurred in an adult day health care center, DPH and the California Department of Aging shall be notified.
 - (f) The Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse shall be notified of all abuse that constitutes criminal activity in a long-term care facility.
 - (g) The District Attorney's office shall be notified of all cases of physical abuse and financial abuse in a long-term care facility.
 - (h) If the abuse occurred at a state mental hospital or a state developmental center, notification shall be made to the designated investigators of the California Department of State Hospitals or the California Department of Developmental Services as soon as practicable but no later than two hours after law enforcement becomes aware of the abuse (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).
 1. When a report of abuse is received by the Department, investigation efforts shall be coordinated with the designated investigators of the California Department of State Hospitals or the California Department of Developmental Services (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).
 - (i) If during an investigation it is determined that the elder or dependent adult abuse is being committed by a licensed health practitioner as identified in Welfare and Institutions Code § 15640(b), the appropriate licensing agency shall be immediately notified (Welfare and Institutions Code 15640(b)).
 - (j) When the Department receives a report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of an elder or dependent adult alleged to have occurred in a long-term care facility, the licensing agency shall be notified by telephone as soon as practicable (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15640(e)).

Failure to report, or impeding or inhibiting a report of abuse of an elder or dependent adult, is a misdemeanor (Welfare and Institutions Code §15630(h)).

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should include the following information, if known (Welfare and Institutions Code §15630(e)):

- (a) The name of the person making the report.

- (b) The name and age of the elder or dependent adult.
- (c) The present location of the elder or dependent adult.
- (d) The names and addresses of family members or any other adult responsible for the care of the elder or dependent adult.
- (e) The nature and extent of the condition of the elder or dependent adult.
- (f) The date of incident.
- (g) Any other information, including information that led the person to suspect elder or dependent adult abuse.

326.10 CVPD protocol for interviews

(a). PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS

1. Absent extenuating circumstances or impracticality, officers should audio record the preliminary interview with a suspected elder or dependent adult abuse victim. Officers should avoid multiple interviews with the victim and should attempt to gather only the information necessary to begin an investigation. When practicable, investigating officers should defer interviews until a person who is specially trained in such interviews is available.

(b). DETAINING VICTIMS FOR INTERVIEWS

1. An officer should not detain an adult involuntarily who is suspected of being a victim of abuse solely for the purpose of an interview.

(b). INTERVIEWS WITH A PERSON WITH DEAFNESS OR HEARING LOSS

1. An officer who is interviewing a victim or witness who reports or demonstrates deafness or hearing loss should secure the services of a qualified interpreter (as defined by Evidence Code § 754) prior to the start of the interview (Penal Code § 368.6) (see the Communications with Persons with Disabilities Policy for additional guidance).