

235. MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE/NEGLECT



RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

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Authority: Chief Jay Henthorne

NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to specify procedures for reporting abuse and neglect of children and vulnerable adults that are required by state law.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Richfield Police Department to protect children and vulnerable adults whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through physical abuse or neglect. Any report of abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult that is received by this Department **shall** be reported to the appropriate county welfare agency immediately. When the local welfare agency is notified by the Department, the welfare agency assesses the case, provides protective measures if needed. The response of the Department and the county welfare agency should be coordinated to avoid duplication of fact-finding efforts and unnecessary multiple interviews.

III. DEFINITIONS

VULNERABLE ADULT: Means any person 18 years of age or older:

- 1) Who is a resident or inpatient of a facility (nursing home, residential care facility, etc.);
- 2) Who receives services from a licensed home care provider;
- 3) Who, regardless of residence or type of service received, is unable or unlikely to report abuse or neglect without assistance because of impairment of mental or physical function or emotional status.
- 4) Who, regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction.
- 5) Who cannot adequately provide for their own care without assistance, including the provision of food, shelter, clothing, health care, or supervision.
- 6) Who, because of a dysfunction or infirmity and the need for care or services, the individual has an impaired ability to protect the individual's self from maltreatment.

IV. PROCEDURE

Any officer who knows or has reason to believe a child or vulnerable adult is being neglected or physically or sexually abused, or, in the case of a child, has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years **shall** complete a report and submit it to the duty supervisor as soon as possible. The appropriate county welfare agency must be notified immediately both orally and in writing.

REPORTING PROCEDURE

Child Abuse/Neglect

State law requires child abuse/neglect notifications to Child Protection be made within 24 hrs.

Monday through Friday it **shall** be the responsibility of clerical staff to notify Child Protection.

On those instances when there is no detective working or scheduled to work, it **shall** be the responsibility of the respective duty supervisor to notify Child Protection by telephone, and or FAX with the case number of the report to Child Protection. The duty supervisor should note in the narrative of the report that the report was faxed, and in the case of the telephone call, what time the call was made, and to whom they spoke.

Vulnerable Adult Abuse/Neglect

The assigned detective **shall** be responsible for notifying Adult Protection by phone and to FAX them a copy of the report. Every effort should be made to make this notification within one business day of the time the report was received.

INTERVIEWS WITH CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS

State law requires that a record be kept of all interviews with child abuse victims. The case file should contain the following information for each interview:

- 1) Date, time, and duration of the interview;
- 2) Identity of the persons present at the interview;
- 3) A summary of the information obtained during the interview.

In the course of assessing a report of abuse or neglect, law enforcement and welfare officials may interview, without parental consent, the alleged victim and any other minors who currently reside or who have resided with the alleged perpetrator. The interview may take place outside the presence of the parent, legal custodian, or guardian. For interviews on school grounds, officers should complete a "Notification to School to Interview Child" form and present it to school officials.

MEDICAL EXAMINER NOTIFICATION

In cases where there is reason to believe the death of a child or vulnerable adult was caused by neglect or abuse, the medical examiner **shall** be notified of the suspected abuse.

PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

An officer who knows or has reason to believe that a pregnant woman has used a controlled substance for a non-medical purpose during the pregnancy **shall** report the incident using the same reporting procedures for child abuse. Any report of prenatal exposure to controlled substances received by the Department must be reported immediately to child protection.

By Order Of:



Chief of Police

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