

Information for Mandated Reporters

(That's you!)

Every **Adult Protective Service (APS)** or **Long Term Care Ombudsman** case starts with the initial abuse report. They can help abuse and/or neglect victims only when problems are brought to their attention. Mandatory reporting laws exist to ensure that victims of abuse get the help they need as quickly as possible.

For more information:

Adult Protective Services

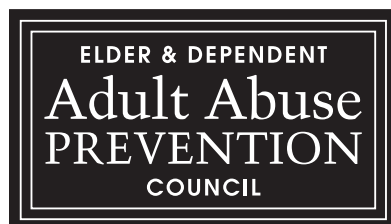
681-4550

346-8303

737-6020

Long Term Care Ombudsman

925-0499



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

This notice courtesy of:



For San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties

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California Law, under the Welfare & Institutions Code for Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse, provides for mandatory reporting of physical abuse, neglect, self neglect, sexual abuse, mental suffering, financial abuse, isolation, abandonment or abduction of an elder or dependent adult when:

- The victim reports abuse has occurred.
- You observe the incident or have knowledge of abuse.
- When an injury or condition reasonably leads one to suspect that abuse has occurred.
- The law requires mandated reporters to make a verbal report immediately or as soon as practical, followed by a written report (SOC 341) within two (2) working days.
- If the suspected abuses occurred in a federally-funded long-term care facility, reports to law enforcement have the following requirements:
 1. If the suspicious events result in serious bodily injury, the report must be made not later than two (2) hours after forming the suspicion; and
 2. If the suspicious events do not result in serious bodily injury, the report must be made not later than 24 hours after forming the suspicion.

Examples of who must report:

- Care Custodians
- Health Practitioners
- Financial institutions
- County Welfare Departments
- Employees of Law Enforcement Agencies
- Employees of Fire Departments
- Employees of humane societies and animal control agencies
- Employees of environmental health and building code enforcement
- Clergy members
- Any other protective, public, sectarian, mental health, private assistance, or advocacy agency, or person providing health services or social services to elders or dependent adults
- Any person who has assumed full or intermittent responsibility for care or custody of an elder or dependent adult whether they get paid or not

No person reporting elder or dependent adult abuse shall be subject to any sanction for making the report in good faith. To encourage reporting, all reports are confidential and mandated reporters are protected from civil and criminal liability for carrying out their duty as mandated reporters. Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 15630(f), 15633.5(b), 15634.

Mandated Reporters who fail to report actual or suspected abuse can be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by a jail sentence, a fine, or both. Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 15630(h) and 15634 (d).