



Medical Direction and Practices Board Mandated Reporting Requirements for EMS Clinicians White Paper

Over the last several protocol review cycles, the MDPB has included references to new state laws requiring mandatory reporting for a variety of situations. These include updates to the Child Abuse Management and Reporting Protocol. This White Paper serves to clarify mandated reporting requirements under Maine Law.

Sexual assault of a person 18 years or older who is not disabled and has decision-making capacity, should be reported to law enforcement at the request of the victim. In these situations, the decision to report to law enforcement is that of the victim. There are no mandated reporting requirements under these circumstances.

Maine law² identifies EMS clinicians as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse/neglect (including sexual abuse/assault). In Maine, a child is defined as a person who has not reached the age of 18¹. In these situations, the EMS clinician should report to Child Protective Services/DHHS (1-800-452-1999) as soon as possible. In addition to suspected abuse/neglect of a child, some situations require reporting based on the age of the child and the injury. In children under 6 months of age, or who are otherwise non-ambulatory, EMS clinicians must report to Child Protective Services/DHHS for any evidence of the following injuries:

- Fracture of a bone
- Substantial bruising or multiple bruises
- Subdural hematoma
- Burns
- Poisoning
- Injury resulting in substantial bleeding, soft tissue swelling or impairment of an organ.

Mandated reporting of suspected abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of an incapacitated or disabled adult is also required of EMS clinicians. Under these circumstances, reports should be made to Adult Protective Services/DHHS (1-800-624-8404).

Furthermore, EMS clinicians may disclose to law enforcement, upon request, any information reported to Child Protective Services/Adult Protective Services/DHHS.

Child and Adult Protective Service/DHHS has their own mandated reporting requirements to notify law enforcement and the Office of the District Attorney, when applicable.

All mandated reporters, including EMS clinicians, must complete mandated reporter training every four years. This training is free of charge and may be found at: <https://mainemandatedreporter.org>

References

1. Maine Revised Statutes (MRS) Title 22, §4002. DEFINITIONS
2. Maine Revised Statutes (MRS) Title 22, §4011-A. REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT
3. Maine Mandated Reporter Training (<https://mainemandatedreporter.org>)