



POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

SECTION: NURSING SERVICES

POLICY: #445 Mandatory reporting of suspected abuse/neglect of a vulnerable adult.

PURPOSE: To protect any vulnerable adult from a situation or circumstance that may unsafe and result in abuse or neglect.

Policy:

1. CVHD Nursing staff is considered to be mandatory reporters as defined in ND Senate Bill 2323, which becomes law on August 1, 2013.
2. Report as soon as possible knowledge that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a vulnerable adult being subjected to conditions or circumstances that reasonably would result in abuse or neglect.
3. To report a suspected situation involving a vulnerable adult, contact the Regional Vulnerable Adult Protective Services or contact law enforcement.
4. If immediate danger is suspected contact local law enforcement.
5. Include as much of the following information in your report as possible
 - Name, age and residence addressed of the alleged vulnerable adult.
 - Name and residence address of the caregiver (if any).
 - Nature and extent of the alleged abuse or neglect or the conditions and circumstances that would reasonably be expected to result in abuse or neglect.
 - Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect.
 - Any other information that, in the reporter's opinion, may be helpful in establishing the cause of the alleged abuse or neglect and the identity of the individual responsible for the alleged abuse or neglect.
6. Any person required to report who willfully fails to do so is guilty of an infraction and is subject to a fine of up to \$1000.00

Definitions:

Abuse: means any willful act or omission of a caregiver or any other person which results in physical injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, sexual abuse, or financial exploitation to or of a vulnerable adult.

Neglect: means the failure of a caregiver to provide essential services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of a vulnerable adult, or the inability or lack of desire for the vulnerable adult to provide essential services necessary to maintain and safeguard the vulnerable adult's own physical and mental health.

Vulnerable adult: means and adult who has a substantial mental or functional impairment.

Substantial functional impairment means a substantial incapability, because of physical limitations, of living independently or providing self-care as determined through observation, diagnosis, evaluation, or assessment

Substantial Mental Impairment means a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, or ability to live independently or provide self-care as revealed by observation, diagnosis, evaluation or assessment.