

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

#E-010

Date approved: 7-28-05

Purpose:

This procedure should be used when an employee or member suspects that a child observed by them in their official capacity with this organization is an abused or maltreated child or when a legally responsible person provides information that, if correct, would cause a child to be considered abused or maltreated.

NYS Social Services Law, Section 413 requires Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs & AEMTs) to report, or cause to be reported, suspected child abuse and maltreatment they identify while performing their duties as an EMT. The responsibility for reporting should not be transferred to hospital personnel or other health care providers.

Procedure:

1. Assure that the scene is safe. If the scene is dangerous, leave immediately and contact law enforcement from a safe location.
2. Provide patient care in accordance with applicable State and local protocols.
3. Document observations and findings of suspected abuse or maltreatment on the Prehospital Care Report (PCR) using factual, objective, and nonjudgmental statements.
4. Do not delay transport to collect additional information about suspected abuse or maltreatment.
5. Do not confront parents, guardians, caregivers or other parties present. Obtain information in a non-judgmental manner.
6. Make every effort to continually observe the suspected abused/maltreated child while you are at the scene.
7. If no legally responsible party is available, request EMS transport of the child to the closest appropriate hospital or medical receiving facility.
 - a. Advise an EMT or AEMT with the transporting ambulance of your suspicions. Record the name of the EMT or AEMT you reported to on your PCR.
 - b. Immediately, or as soon as practical after returning to service, make a report to the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register following procedure # 10 a (below).
8. If a legally responsible party is present and consents to transport, follow procedure # 7 (above).

9. If a legally responsible party or any other person refuses transport and you determine that transport is necessary or that the child would be in danger without transport, make all usual efforts to convince the parties of the need for transport. If this is not successful, discreetly call for law enforcement to respond to the scene.
10. If a legally responsible party refuses transport, or transport is not necessary and the child does not appear in danger, document your findings on a PCR.
 - a. Immediately, or as soon as practical after returning to service, make an oral report to the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register.
 - i. Oral reports shall be made by calling 800-635-1522.
 - ii. All telephone reports must be followed within 48 hours by a written report using form DSS-2221A (attached – also available on line at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cps/2221A.pdf>)
 - iii. Complete the DSS-2221A with as much information as possible and forward to the local child protective services where the child resides. Child protective services will obtain information you are unable to provide. If the child resides in a residential institution, submit form DSS-2221A directly to the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register.
 - iv. Attach a copy of form DSS-2221-A to the agency's original PCR.