

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
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Lt. Governor

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES **OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 15-02**

Date: July 10, 2015

To: All certified or licensed Connecticut EMS Providers
All Connecticut EMS Organizations
All Connecticut Sponsor Hospitals

From: Raphael M. Barishansky, M.P.H., M.S., CPM
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Re: Changes to Connecticut General Statutes regarding mandatory reporting of elder abuse

[Public Act #15-242](#) changed Connecticut General Statute [17b-451 Protective Services for the Elderly](#), regarding report of suspected elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment. The act, effective October 1, 2015, adds all licensed and certified Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to the list of mandated reporters. The language, in Section 9(a) of the public act, states that “*A mandatory reporter, as defined in this section, who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any elderly person (defined as sixty years of age or older) has been abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned, or is in a condition that is the result of such abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or is in need of protective services shall, not later than seventy-two hours after such suspicion or belief arose, report such information or cause a report to be made in any reasonable manner to the Commissioner of Social Services or to the person or persons designated by the Commissioner to receive such reports.*” The relevant section of the public act is attached at the end of this document for reference.

The report, which can be made orally or in writing, must contain the name and address of the elderly person, information regarding the nature and extent of the problem, and any other information which the reporter believes might be helpful in an investigation. To report cases of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the toll-free In State referral line at 1-888-385-4225 during normal business hours or 211 after hours.

Links for both the public act and the statute are provided as hyperlinks above. Please take the time to review these documents with your personnel. It’s important to review both documents as the public act only includes the sections of the statute that have changed, and the public act language generally does not get compiled and incorporated into the published statute for one year. Of important note in the statute, anyone who is required to report as a mandated reporter and fails to do so shall be fined up to \$500.

The Department appreciates your commitment to improving the EMS system.



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Substitute House Bill No. 6987

Public Act No. 15-242

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 17b-451 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

(a) [Any] A mandatory reporter, as defined in this section, who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any elderly person has been abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned, or is in a condition that is the result of such abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or is in need of protective services, shall, not later than seventy-two hours after such suspicion or belief arose, report such information or cause a report to be made in any reasonable manner to the Commissioner of Social Services or to the person or persons designated by the commissioner to receive such reports. The term "mandatory reporter" means (1) any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2) any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any nursing home administrator, nurse's aide or orderly in a nursing home facility or residential care home, (5) any person paid for caring for a patient in a nursing home facility or residential care home, (6) any staff person employed by a nursing home facility or residential care home, (7) any patients' advocate, (8) any licensed practical nurse, medical examiner, dentist, optometrist, chiropractor, podiatrist, social worker, clergyman, police officer, pharmacist, psychologist or physical therapist, [and] (9) any person paid for caring for an elderly person by any institution, organization, agency or facility, []. Such persons shall include an] including without limitation, any employee of a

community-based services provider, senior center, home care agency, homemaker and companion agency, adult day care center, village-model community and congregate housing facility, [who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any elderly person has been abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned, or is in a condition that is the result of such abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or is in need of protective services, shall, not later than seventy-two hours after such suspicion or belief arose, report such information or cause a report to be made in any reasonable manner to the Commissioner of Social Services or to the person or persons designated by the commissioner to receive such reports. Any person required to report under the provisions of this section] and (10) any person licensed or certified as an emergency medical services provider pursuant to chapter 368d or chapter 384d, including any such emergency medical services provider who is a member of a municipal fire department. Any mandatory reporter who fails to make such report within the prescribed time period shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, except that, if such person intentionally fails to make such report within the prescribed time period, such person shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor for the first offense and a class A misdemeanor for any subsequent offense. Any institution, organization, agency or facility employing individuals to care for persons sixty years of age or older shall provide mandatory training on detecting potential abuse, [and] neglect, exploitation and abandonment of such persons and inform such employees of their obligations under this section. For purposes of this subsection, "person paid for caring for an elderly person by any institution, organization, agency or facility" includes an employee of a community-based services provider, senior center, home health care agency, homemaker and companion agency, adult day care center, village-model community and congregate housing facility.