



McLean County Area EMS System

TITLE: REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CRIMES AND CRIME SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES

POLICY STATEMENT:

Often the First Responder, EMT, or Pre-hospital RN may arrive at the scene of a violent crime before the police arrive. This requires an understanding by the EMS Crew of law enforcement in preserving, collecting and using evidence. Anything at the scene may provide clues and evidence for the police.

GOAL/PURPOSE:

To establish procedures to follow at the scene of a suspected crime to insure proper patient care while preserving the scene.

POLICY:

- A. It is the duty of EMS personnel to notify the local law enforcement agency when it is suspected that the patient receiving treatment by EMS personnel:
- Has any injury resulting from the discharge of a firearm;
 - Has any injury sustained in the commission of or as a victim of a criminal offense;
 - Is a victim of suspected child abuse or neglect;
 - Is a victim of suspected elderly abuse or neglect
- B. Upon arrival at the suspected crime scene, note the following:
- Immediately notify the police or request the dispatch center to do so.
 - If the victim is obviously dead, then he or she should remain undisturbed. Even the position of the body can provide valuable clues.
 - Do not touch, move, or relocate any item at the scene unless absolutely necessary to provide treatment to an injured victim. You should mark the location of any item that must be moved so the police can determine its original position. (Refer to "Interaction of Law Enforcement/Evidence" policy).
 - Do not allow onlookers or other unauthorized personnel on the premises of the crime.
 - Observe and note anything unusual, especially if the evidence may not be present when the police arrive. This may include smoke and odors.
 - Give immediate care to the patient. The fact that the patient is a probable crime victim should not delay prompt treatment. Remember, your role is to provide emergency care, not law enforcement or detective work.
 - Keep detailed records of the incident including your observations of the victim and the scene of the crime. In many felony cases, EMS personnel are called to testify since they were first on the scene, and lack of records about the case can be professionally embarrassing.
 - Once the police arrive you should leave or at least not hinder their work, however, you should give them any information you believe would be useful.