



McLean County Area EMS System

TITLE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

POLICY STATEMENT:

The following guidelines have been established to provide the First Responder, EMT and/or Pre-hospital RN direction in cases of domestic violence or suspected victim of domestic abuse. It is the lawful duty of the EMS provider to report suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect. The EMS provider must also provide emergency medical care as appropriate and insure the suspected victim or victim of abuse receives immediate and adequate information regarding services available to victims of abuse.

GOAL/PURPOSE:

To provide for proper reporting of an incident through notification of appropriate persons and resources and offering immediate and adequate information regarding services available to victims of abuse or for any person suspected to be a victim of domestic abuse.

POLICY:

DEFINITION - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Although commonly thought of as hitting, shoving, kicking, stabbing and other serious physical attacks, domestic violence may also be sexual or psychological. It involves: The infliction or threat of infliction of any bodily injury or harmful physical contact or the destruction of property or threat thereof as a method of coercion, control, revenge or punishment upon a person with whom the actor is involved in an intimate relationship (i.e. between spouses, former spouses, past or present unmarried couples, between children, between children and parent(s), between children and a relative).

ILLINOIS STATE LAW

ABUSE and NEGLECT REPORTING; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REFERRALS

- All persons licensed, certified or approve under the Illinois EMS Systems Act shall report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect in accordance with the requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. (325 ILCS 5/4).
 - All persons licensed, certified or approved under the Illinois EMS System Act shall offer to a person suspected to be a victim of abuse immediate and adequate information regarding services available to victims of abuse, in accordance with Section 401 of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1886.
- A. Implied consent shall be obtained to provide emergency medical care and transfer of the victim to the hospital facility of the victim's choice or to the nearest appropriate facility.
- B. All cases of domestic violence shall be treated as victims of a crime and the assault and/or battery shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- C. It is important for the EMS provider to convey an attitude of concern, respect and confidentiality to the patient. Provide support and encouragement to the victim. Understand the victim's fears of future violence if he/she expresses concern, and fear of great loss physically/emotionally/mentally, if violence is disclosed. Provide privacy, protect and provide privacy from partner/spouse/parent/relative.



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- D. All victims or suspected victims of domestic abuse including child abuse or neglect shall be provided immediate and adequate information regarding services available.

All victims or suspected victims shall be offered emergency medical care as appropriate and transfer to a hospital facility for additional medical care including abuse referrals to an appropriate agency or service.

All victims or suspected victims who refuse or do not require emergency medical care shall be offered to the following domestic violence services as appropriate:

- **PATH**, a Bloomington/Normal help hotline, (309) 827-4005 Toll Free 800-570-7284
- **Countering Domestic Violence, or CDV**, a 24 hour hotline, (309) 827-7070
- **Neville House** in McLean County, a local shelter, (309) 827-7070
- **McLean County Center for Human Services, Inc. Crisis Team** During Business Hours: 309-827-5351 After Hours: 309-827-4005
- **Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence Shelter**, 309-827-7070
- **DOVE**, serves DeWitt and Macon Counties, (217) 935-2241
- **Chestnut Health Systems, SECURE Program**, 309-820-3500
- **Tri-County Women Strength**, serves Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties, (309) 691-4111 or (309) 691-0551
- **AVERT**, for males accused of domestic violence, (309) 828-2860
- **McLean County Child Protection Network**, (309) 888-5656
- **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, DCFS**, (800) 252-2873
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**, 800-799-SAFE (7233) TDD Hotline 800-787-3224
- **Child Abuse (Any Setting)**, 1-800-252-2873
- **Domestic Abuse (Any Setting)**, 1-800-787-3224
- **Disabled Abuse (Any Setting)**, 1-800-368-1463
- **Elder Abuse (In Nursing Home)**, 1-800-252-4343 **(Other Settings)**, 1-800-252-8966 **(After Hours)** 1-866-800-1409