




Advisory 16-10 Mandated Reporting

To: All Providers

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P 
Regional Medical Director

Date: November 10, 2016

As a certified EMS provider or law enforcement officer, you must call (800) 635-1522 to report any suspected child abuse and/or maltreatment to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment. A Child is defined as an individual of 17 years of age or younger and circumstances for reporting include reasonable suspicion of either of the following:

Child Abuse:

- A child whose parent or other person legally responsible for his/her care inflicts upon the child serious physical injury, creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury, or commits an act of sex abuse against the child.
- Not only can a person be abusive to a child if they perpetrate any of these actions against a child, they can be guilty of abusing a child if they allow someone else to do these things to that child.

Child Maltreatment:

- Maltreatment refers to the quality of care a child is receiving from those responsible for him/her.
- Maltreatment occurs when a parent or other person legally responsible for the care of a child harms a child, or places a child in imminent danger of harm by failing to exercise the minimum degree of care in providing the child with any of the following: food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care when financially able to do so.
- Maltreatment can also result from abandonment of a child or from not providing adequate supervision for the child.
- A child may be maltreated if a parent engages in excessive use of drugs or alcohol such that it interferes with their ability to adequately supervise the child. Thus any illicit drug use or overdose in the presence of children may offer reasonable suspicion of child maltreatment.

Any reasonable cause to suggest that child abuse or maltreatment has or is occurring requires each of the agencies involved in that situation file a report. Thus it is never appropriate to assume the ambulance will do it, law enforcement will do it, or the emergency department will do it. Reports should be called as soon as practical after the incident has occurred.

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office or refer to www.nysmandatedreporter.org.

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