

PROCEDURE MANUAL

07-11



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

Vulnerable Adult Investigations

Purpose: The information in this manual provides guidance for responding to and investigating vulnerable adult abuse incidents in violation of the Michigan Penal Code, [MCL 750.145m](#), et seq, reporting responsibilities when an enforcement member suspects or has reasonable cause to believe that an adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation pursuant to the Social Welfare Act, [MCL 400.11 et seq](#), and member responsibilities pursuant to the Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act , [MCL 28.711 et seq](#).

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Definitions:

None

Section 1: Vulnerable Adult Investigations

1.1 Investigating Vulnerable Adult Abuse

- a. In all matters brought to the attention of the department concerning abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult, the enforcement member shall conduct a complete investigation.
- b. Enforcement members shall take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the adult, MDHHS worker, or any person involved in the investigation of vulnerable adult abuse incidents.
- c. In vulnerable adult abuse investigations, enforcement members shall satisfy the legal obligations to conduct a criminal investigation and, as such, the findings of the investigation shall be submitted to the prosecutor.
- d. Investigating enforcement members shall coordinate with the MDHHS when conducting investigations under authority of the Social Welfare Act.
- e. Whenever possible, the investigating enforcement member shall respond to the initial report of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult while accompanied by a protective service worker from the local MDHHS.
- f. Law enforcement will provide the MDHHS and the prosecuting attorney with relevant information and police reports necessary for the MDHHS to complete the State of Michigan reporting requirements.
- g. Law enforcement will inform the MDHHS and the prosecuting attorney when any case involving a vulnerable adult is referred to the Michigan attorney general or the United States attorney.

1.2 Social Welfare Act Requirements

- a. The Social Welfare Act, [MCL 400.11 et seq](#), specifies reporting procedures for enforcement members who suspect or have reasonable cause to believe that an adult has been abused, neglected, or exploited. The following procedures shall be used to report this type of incident.
 - i. The investigating enforcement member shall immediately report the incident by telephone or other means to MDHHS Centralized Intake for Abuse and Neglect (Central Intake) at 855-444-3911.

- ii. After making an oral report of an incident alleging the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult, an enforcement member shall file a written report which may be submitted to Centralized Intake by fax at 616-977-1154 or email at MDHHS-CPS-CIGroup@michigan.gov.
 - iii. When someone other than the investigating enforcement member submits a written report, it shall be noted in the incident report.
 - iv. When the enforcement member submits a written report, a copy shall be attached to the work and master file copies of the incident report.
- b. Emergency Placement
 - i. If the enforcement member determines that emergency placement of a vulnerable adult is necessary, the enforcement member shall call Central Intake at 855-444-3911.
 - ii. Regardless of whether emergency placement is necessary, enforcement members shall also ensure that a vulnerable adult receives necessary medical attention whenever the health or welfare of the adult is endangered.
- c. The Michigan Model Vulnerable Adult Protocol
 - i. The Social Welfare Act mandated the development of a state model protocol for the investigation of vulnerable adult abuse cases. A county prosecuting attorney, in cooperation with the local county MDHHS and local law enforcement agencies, may have adopted a local protocol for the investigation of vulnerable adult abuse cases that is based on the state protocol.
 - ii. Enforcement members investigating suspected cases of vulnerable adult abuse should follow the appropriate protocol established by the prosecutor in the enforcement member's post area.
 - iii. If no protocol has been established in the enforcement member's post area, the enforcement members must review and have knowledge of the [Michigan Model Vulnerable Adult Protocol](#).

1.3 Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act

- a. The Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act, [MCL 28.711 et seq](#), provides an official response to reports of certain missing persons; allows for the broadcast of information related to those missing individuals; and provides civil immunity to broadcasters and newspapers that notify the public of such incidents.
- b. Reports on Missing Senior or Vulnerable Adults: When an enforcement member receives notice of a missing senior or vulnerable adult from a person familiar with the missing senior or vulnerable adult, the enforcement member shall prepare a report as soon as practicable and include all the identifying information required pursuant to [MCL 28.713](#).
- c. Forwarding Information: After obtaining the information necessary to complete the report required (reference PM 07-12), the enforcement member shall as soon as practicable, cause that information to be forwarded to all the LEAs and news media as required by [MCL 28.715](#). Enforcement members may enter the "missing vulnerable adult" information into the LEIN/NCIC system in accordance with directives on Missing Persons Investigations.

- d. Investigation: Enforcement members shall begin an investigation concerning the missing senior or vulnerable adult as soon as possible after receiving notification of a missing senior or vulnerable adult.
- e. Enforcement members shall also comply with the procedures and policy for missing persons as otherwise set forth in this Order.