



POLICY AND PROCEDURE **NO. 555**

Elderly Abuse Reporting

Date Issued: May 9, 1995
Date Effective: May 9, 1995

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1. AT A GLANCE:

Under M.G.L Chapter 19A, when police have reasonable cause to believe that an elder, who is 60 years of age or older, has suffered from elder abuse or from financial exploitation, or from neglect, or from some combination of abuse, financial exploitation and neglect, police must, as a mandated reporter, immediately make a verbal report to their local protective service agency* or to the elder abuse hotline at 1-800-922-2275** and follow that immediate report with a written report within 48 hours. Police are protected from civil suit when police file a report. On the other hand, if police fail to report, police can be subject to a criminal fine of up to \$1,000.00. (**appropriate for non-business agency hours-nights, holidays, weekends.)

2. DEFINITIONS:

ABUSE: Includes injury caused by someone's physical, sexual or emotional conduct.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION: Includes substantial financial loss to the elder caused by someone's actions or failure to act.

NEGLECT: Includes a caretaker's refusal or failure to provide one or more basic necessities of life.

3. LOCAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES AGENCY:

The Worcester Police Department's local protective service agency is:

*Elder home Care of Worcester
1241 Main Street
Worcester, ma 01603
Telephone (508) 756-1545
Protective Services Supervisor: Viviane Dumas

4. QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO DEFINITIONS:

A. Abuse:

1. Physical: The infliction or threat of serious physical injury to an elder.
2. Sexual: Any form of sexual contact or activity without the elders consent or where the elder is incapable of providing adequate consent.
3. Emotional: The infliction of mental or emotional anguish by threat. Humiliation or other verbal or non-verbal contact.

B. Financial:

The unauthorized use of funds or resources of an elder which results in a substantial loss in the elder to another person.

C. Neglect:

The failure or refusal by a caretaker to provide one or more of the necessities essential for physical well-being.