



# Reporting Abuse/Neglect



Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

**FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE (800) 962-2873**

State Substantive Laws (Crimes)

## CHAPTER 415 – PROTECTION FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

### 415.102 Definitions of terms used in FS 415.101-415.113.

"Abuse" means the non-accidental infliction of physical or psychological injury or sexual abuse upon a disabled adult or an elderly person by a relative, caregiver, or household member, or an action by any of those persons which could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury, or sexual abuse of a disabled adult or an elderly person by any person. "Abuse" also means the active encouragement of any person by a relative, caregiver, or household member to commit an act that inflicts or could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury to a disabled adult or an elderly person.

"Disabled adult" means a person 18 years of age or older who suffers from a condition of physical or mental incapacitation due to a developmental disability, organic brain damage, or mental illness, or who has one or more physical or mental limitations that substantially restrict ability to perform the normal activities of daily living.

"Elderly person" means a person 60 years of age or older who is suffering from the infirmities of aging as manifested by advanced age or organic brain damage, or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunctioning to the extent that the ability of the person to provide adequately for the persons' own care or protection is impaired.

### 415.111 Criminal penalties.

A person who knowingly and willfully fails to report a case of known or suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a disabled adult or an elderly person or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree.



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### 415.503 Definitions of terms used in FS 415.502-415.514.

"Abused or neglected child" means a child who's physical or mental health or welfare is harmed, or threatened with harm, by the acts of omissions of the parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare or, for the purposes of reporting requirements, by any person.

"Child abuse or neglect" means harm or threatened harm to a child's physical or mental health or welfare by the acts or omissions of a parent, adult household member, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, or, for purposes of reporting requirements, by any person.

### 415.504 Mandatory reports of child abuse or neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline.

Any person, who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is an abused, abandoned, or neglected child shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department

### 415.511 Immunity from liability in cases of child abuse or neglect.

Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by FS 415.502-415.514, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse to any law enforcement officer shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action.

### 415.513 Penalties relating to abuse reporting.

A person who is required by FS 415.504 to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect; and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so, or who knowingly or willfully prevents another person from doing so, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree...



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