



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

NO.555

Elderly Abuse Reporting

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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.)

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.

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

Quick Reference Guide to Definitions:

Abuse:

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

Financial:

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

Neglect:

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