

<p><b>Standard Operating Procedure</b></p> <p><b>SUSPECTED ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT</b></p> <p><b>EMS</b></p> <p><b>400.15</b></p> <p><b>Rev. 03/14/2013</b>      <b>Page 1 of 2</b></p>
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**PURPOSE**

To insure compliance with the State of Arizona mandatory reporting requirements for suspected abuse.

Current Statutes are:

A.R.S. 13-3620 states “any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of abuse or neglect shall immediately report or cause reports to be made to a peace officer or to child protective services”.

A.R.S. 46-454 states “A physician, registered nurse practitioner, hospital intern or resident, surgeon, dentist, psychologist, social worker, peace officer or other person who has responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult and who has a reasonable basis to believe that abuse or neglect of the adult has occurred or that exploitation of the adult's property has occurred shall immediately report or cause reports to be made of such reasonable basis to a peace officer or to a protective services worker.”

**RESPONSIBILITY**

In order to provide a consistent plan for reporting, the following policy has been developed. Specific guidelines for documentation and interviewing are found in the Westside Offline Protocols.

**POLICY**

Law Enforcement must be contacted as soon as possible when the alleged perpetrator has care, custody or control of the minor. When reporting the incident to law enforcement:

- Document the name of the dispatcher you spoke with
- Ask if and when the officer is expected to respond
- Document the name and serial number of the officer
- Document the DR number assigned to the case
- The reporting crew must remain available for interviews with the responding officer. Contact the respective Battalion Chief to coordinate availability and possible out of service time to be available for law enforcement interviews.

