
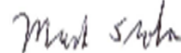
	GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	Investigation of Nursing Home Abuse			
	GENERAL ORDER	604.6		Related CALEA Standards:
	Effective Date	06/23/2016		42.1.4, 55.1.1, 55.1.3, 82.2.1
Authorized by:	Mark P. Sroka CHIEF OF POLICE	SIGNATURE 	DATE 06/23/2016	

I. DEPARTMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the department to have prompt intervention and reporting by officers of instances in which abuse is alleged at a nursing facility. Investigations of alleged nursing home abuse shall be conducted following the Department's procedures specified in this directive and those governing preliminary and follow-up investigations (General Order 604.2 – Preliminary and Follow Up Investigations).

Officers must be aware of and comply with the reporting requirements for Nursing Home Abuse - Article 19, Section 347, Annotated Code of Maryland.

II. INVESTIGATIONS

A. Abuse Defined

1. For the purpose of this directive, *abuse* is defined as the non-therapeutic infliction of physical pain or injury, or any persistent course of conduct intended to produce or resulting in mental or emotional distress. Abuse does not include the performance of an accepted medical procedure ordered by a licensed physician.

B. Procedures

1. Officers responding to situations in which abuse is alleged shall take action to protect the victim from abuse.
2. A thorough preliminary investigation will be conducted by the responding officer.
3. An Event Report will be completed and submitted describing the nature, extent and cause of the abuse, suspect information, other pertinent facts, and the words Nursing Home in the Crime/Incident block (i.e., Assault/ Battery - Nursing Home).
4. Victim(s) interviewed shall be treated with fairness, respect, compassion and dignity.
5. A patrol officer who becomes aware of a *serious* Part I offense

committed at a nursing home will notify District investigators (see [General Order 607.2 - Notification of Investigators](#)).

6. In any nursing home abuse case, the investigating officer shall contact the Office of the Ombudsman for Long-Term Care and Assisted Living at (240) 777-3369, or the Licensing and Regulatory Services at (240) 777-3832.
7. Most Large facilities have an Ombudsman located within their facilities on site. Officers responding to calls for service where an Ombudsman is available on site, shall contact them prior to meeting with the victim.
8. In the event of a health emergency in a nursing home, *Adult Protective Services* for Montgomery County may be contacted at 240-777-3333 (daytime) and 240-777-3000 (after 5 P.M.).