

Medical Personnel

In cases of a fatal or potentially life-threatening injury, where child abuse or neglect is known or suspected, paramedics or other medical professionals should:

- immediately contact law enforcement and the Child Protection Hotline
- take note of the child's demeanor and emotional state [if applicable], physical appearance, and clothing
- document all medical intervention given the child by including a full description of all visible injuries, any complaints of pain, all examinations conducted and the location of the examination [i.e., Emergency Department (ED) or crime scene], photographs, charts, test results, and diagnosis or prognosis
- document all statements made by parents, caretakers, or relatives regarding the child's medical history and any explanation for the child's condition including who was responsible for watching the child at the time of the injury, anyone present at the time the injury occurred, and the demeanor of the person making the statement
- document any objects or clothing removed from the child or the immediate area of the scene that may be related to the child's condition or injuries
- document the identity, condition, and current location of any siblings if known
- document the name, identification number of law enforcement and DCFS contact person in addition to recording the SCAR referral number provided by the Child Protection Hotline [CHP]
- obtain the legible copy of the Emergency Medical Technician [EMT] form and record the RA# in the hospital records

If the initial exam is done at a potential crime scene, care should be exercised to document:

- the position of the child upon first observation
- any immediately visible injuries
- the condition of the child's clothing
- the immediate surroundings [including any objects or unusual smells, sounds, sights] presence of drug paraphernalia, signs of alcohol use
- the behavior of the child
- any physical contact initiated by the examiner for treatment purposes
- any relevant measurements [water or air temperature, distance, heights, ventilation system, presence of space heater]
- condition of the sleep surface in cases involving co-sleeping or overlay as contributing causes to the death or injury
- the reasons for immediate transportation of the child by paramedics or EMTs from the potential crime scene and immediate notification to law enforcement personnel of the need to dispatch a unit to maintain the integrity of the potential crime scene for evidence collection purposes