

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-XII-11
Suspected Child / Elder Abuse	
Chpt: XII EMS	Revised: 3/23/12 Pages: 1

I. PURPOSE

A. To establish the guidelines for the handling of a child or elderly patient that is a victim of abuse or neglect.

II. POLICY

A. The fire department shall treat the victim of child or elder abuse and preserve evidence and the scene until the police arrive.

III. PROCEDURE

A. UPON ARRIVAL

1. Check scene for safety
2. Evaluate patient needs
3. Provide appropriate care.

IV. OPERATIONS

1. If abuse is suspected, request Police Department response immediately.
2. Note any findings in your report.
3. Document observations and findings of suspected abuse or maltreatment using factual, objective, and nonjudgmental statements.
4. Do not delay transport to collect additional information about suspected abuse or maltreatment.
5. Do not confront parents, guardians, caregivers or other parties present. Obtain information in a non-judgmental manner.
6. Make every effort to continually observe the suspected abused/maltreated child while you are at the scene.
7. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the area.
8. Note any bruising or scars that may indicate abuse, past or present, and pass information on to PD (See [E-V-4](#) PD assistance and notification)