

STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

September 14, 2010

To: Nursing Facilities

Residential Facilities for Groups (i.e. Group Homes/Assisted Living Facilities)

Homes for Individual Residential Care (HIRC)

Re: Elder Abuse Reporting

This notice provides clarification regarding reporting requirements and state regulations (NRS 200.5093) concerning allegations of abuse, neglect, exploitation or isolation of older persons (60 years of age and older). This regulation identifies that every person employed by a facility that provides care for an older person is a mandated reporter. This means that if the employee knows or has reasonable cause to believe an older person has been abused, neglected, exploited or isolated, the employee must report to the appropriate agency no later than 24 hours after the employee becomes aware that abuse, neglect, exploitation or isolation did or may have occurred. Reports should be made to Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) or a local police department or sheriff's office. ADSD offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., excluding holidays. Crisis Call Center receives reports after hours, weekends and holidays. Those wishing to make a report should call 911 when an older person is in immediate danger.

To report elder abuse to Aging and Disability Services Division, Elder Rights Intake Unit, please use the following numbers:

Local calls in the Las Vegas area: (702) 486-6930
 Toll-free (calls outside Las Vegas): 1-888-729-0571
 FAX: (702) 486-3572
 Crisis Call Center (after hours, weekends and holidays) 1-800-992-5757

Nursing Facilities, Residential Facilities for Groups and Homes for Individual Residential Care or any other facility that provides care for older persons should not report injuries including falls, skin tears, or any injury of unknown source to ADSD unless there is reason to believe these injuries are a result of abuse, neglect, exploitation or isolation.

Allegations of exploitation should not be reported in the form of a discharge notice rather they should be reported as a single, exclusive exploitation allegation if there is reasonable cause to believe the older person is being exploited. In the past, there has been confusion arising from exploitation allegations sent in the guise of a discharge notice resulting in procedural delays with possible adverse affects on residents. It is our objective to eliminate these procedural delays by having a more concise reporting method to ensure an expeditious response to these allegations.

Please note that reporting requirements of the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (BHCQC) are different than those of ADSD.