



San Diego County Sheriff

Training Bulletin

William D. Gore, Sheriff

April 2017



Mandated Child Abuse Reporting to the DA's Office

Sheriff's personnel are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse incidents. California Penal Code section 11166(k) outlines these responsibilities and states in part:

A law enforcement agency shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, report by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to the agency given responsibility for investigation of cases under Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and to the district attorney's office every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it, except acts or omissions coming within subdivision (b) of Section 11165.2, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department.

Sheriff's Policy and Procedures section 6.17 states in part:

Sheriff's Department deputies and professional staff employees are mandated to report ALL incidents of suspected child abuse they become aware of during the course and scope of their duties, regardless if the incident occurred outside our jurisdiction.

Sheriff's Policy and Procedures (P&P) further requires Sheriff's personnel to report suspected child abuse to Child Welfare Services (CWS) utilizing the Suspected Child Abuse Report (form SS 8572). To fulfill the requirement of 11166(k) that known or suspected child abuse be reported to the District Attorney's (DA) Office, the following step is being added to reporting requirements. After completing the preliminary patrol investigation, the deputy shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, email a copy of the Suspected Child Abuse Report to the DA's Office at pc11166@sdcdca.org. The deputy shall also note in the case report that this was done. Professional staff, in addition to calling the CWS hotline, shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, email a copy of the Suspected Child Abuse Report to the DA's Office at the above email address.

An update to Sheriff's P&P section 6.17 is forthcoming.

The information in this Training Bulletin was provided by Central Investigations Division Captain William Donahue and edited for distribution by the In-Service Training Unit. If you have expertise in a particular subject and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact Corporal Daniel Gutierrez at In-Service Training, [REDACTED]