

## 25.5 Mandatory Reporting

While any person may make a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child or elder was abused or neglected, Virginia law mandates that certain persons who suspect child or elder (60 or older) or incapacitated adult abuse or neglect report this to the Department of Social Services in the locality in which the child or elder/incapacitated adult lives or where the alleged abuse has occurred. Those designated by law as “mandated reporters” of child abuse or neglect include any person employed by a public or private institution of higher education, any person licensed, certified or registered by Virginia’s health regulatory boards, any professional staff person employed by the Medical Center or another hospital, and certified emergency medical services personnel.

Those designated by law as mandated reporters of elder/incapacitated abuse or neglect include any person licensed, certified or registered by Virginia’s health regulatory boards, any mental health services provider whether or not that individual is licensed or certified, certified emergency medical services personnel and any person working with adults in an administrative, supportive or direct care capacity. University of Virginia policy requires the solicitation of informed consent from all adult research subjects and, where appropriate, assent from children involved as research subjects, in addition to the permission of their parents. In situations where conditions of abuse or neglect might be revealed, mandated reporters should make themselves known as such to parents of children under age 18, to subjects who are children, and to subjects who are potential victims of abuse or neglect.

Children:

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title63.2/chapter15/section63.2-1509/>

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title63.2/chapter16/section63.2-1606/>

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title63.2/chapter16/section63.2-1603/>

The UVA Medical Center policy on abuse and neglect reporting may be found at:

<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/docs/manuals/policies/mc/A70A3C0F-110A-2E68-14CB7CA516FAE39D/A70A4064-110A-2E68-14F9B61BA2D022C2/abuse-neglect-or-exploitation-of-patients>

Investigators should consult these sources to determine if potential subjects should be advised of mandatory reporting requirements during the informed consent process.