



ELDER AND VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE

LE-021

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Reviewed: 2014/02/19

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board that the requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in his/her administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.

1. Subject

The guiding principles under which the Chief of Police is to establish the procedures and processes for undertaking and managing investigations into elder and vulnerable adult abuse.

2. Specific Definitions

“elderly person”

Means an older adult who is sixty (60) years of age or older.

“vulnerable adult”

Means a person 18 (18) years of age or older, who depends upon others to meet their everyday needs due to mental illness and/or developmental disabilities, or requires long term or indefinite care due to their age or medical condition.

“elder abuse”

Means any harm to an older person caused by someone in a position of trust or authority that they rely upon for their basic needs. This could be a family member, friend, neighbour, landlord, caregiver or another professional person.

“physical abuse”

Means any form of assault or sexual assault and includes confinement to a bed, chair, room or house.

“financial abuse”

Means the misuse of funds, with or without the consent or knowledge of the victim, including:

- (i) forcing an older person to sell personal property;
- (ii) misuse of Power of Attorney;
- (iii) theft of pension cheques, money or property;
- (iv) fraud, forgery or extortion.

“neglect”

Means failure to provide or allowing other people to provide an older person the necessities of life which include:

- (i) failing to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing or medical services; and
- (ii) it also includes abandonment.

“psychological abuse”

Means the infliction of anguish or emotional pain, or treating the older person as a child. Other types of psychological abuse including threatening, insulting, ignoring or frightening this person.

3. Policy Requirements

It is the policy of the Board with respect to the undertaking and managing of investigations into elder and vulnerable adult abuse the Chief of Police shall:

- (a) Ensure complete compliance with legislative and constitutional requirements, and recognized legal principles;
- (b) Ensure that members act with full respect for human dignity and according to professional standards of skill, integrity and accountability;
- (c) Maintain both officer and public safety as a priority;
- (d) Ensure members involved in investigations into elder and vulnerable adult abuse have the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform this function;
- (e) Include a provision for victim assistance;
- (f) Develop and maintain relationships with external agencies, such as community and social service agencies/providers, businesses, seniors' and other local organizations, dealing with issues relating to elder and vulnerable adult abuse; and
- (g) Regularly review procedures on investigations into elder and vulnerable adult abuse to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings, and amendments to related legislation.

4. Measurement Methods/Systems

The Chief of Police shall conduct ongoing statistical analysis, qualitative and quantitative review of all elder and vulnerable adult abuse investigations to ensure compliance with Board policy and legislative requirements.

5. Reporting

The Chief of Police shall report annually, on a stand-alone basis, addressing:

- 1. Number of incidents of Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse reported;
- 2. The effectiveness of existing protocols, community partnerships, training and education.

The Chief of Police shall also report on an exception basis. This applies to those circumstances where an investigation into elder and/or vulnerable adult abuse has resulted in an “exceptional” circumstance, or a circumstance which may be detrimental to the police service; and/or has resulted in significant issues of potential liability to the Board and/or the police service.

As part of a separate Annual Report on Adequacy Regulation, the Chief of Police shall report on compliance with this policy.

6. Authority/Legislative Reference

Ontario Regulation 03/99, Section 12(1)(f) and 29

Board Minute #191/00

Board Minute #18/14

7. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-701(F) Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse