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DUTY TO REPORT ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION

Omnibus Adult Protection Act
Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 amended 2006 §43-35-5 et. seq.

All health care professionals and allied health professionals, staff or volunteers of an adult day care center or a facility, law enforcement officers, public assistance workers and care givers having knowledge or reason to believe that a vulnerable adult (18 years of age or older) has been or is likely to be abused, neglected or exploited shall report the incident pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws §43-35-25. Failure to report such an incident may result in criminal charges according to §43-35-85(A). Reports must be made within 24 hours or the next working day.

If you have knowledge or reason to believe that a consumer, client, resident, or patient (vulnerable adult 18 years of age or older) of a facility operated by or contracted for operation by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health or the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs has been, or is likely to be abused, neglected, or exploited, you must report the incident to the:

South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

1-866-200-6066

Violations of residents' rights (to include verbal abuse), standards of care, or quality of life issues must be reported to the:

State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging
1301 Gervais Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 734-9900
or
1-800-868-9095

FAX: (803) 734-9988

Each nursing care facility, community residential care facility, psychiatric hospital or residential program operated or contracted for operation by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health or the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, operating under the provisions of the Omnibus Adult Protection Act, is required to display this notice prominently for the benefit of consumers, clients, patients, personnel and families according to the South Carolina Code of Laws §43-35-65.