

CHAPTER 626

TRAINING; INVESTIGATION, APPREHENSION;
REPORTS

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626.13 SERVICE; PERSONS MAKING.

A search warrant may in all cases be served anywhere within the issuing judge's county by any of the officers mentioned in its directions, but by no other person, except in aid of the officer on the officer's requiring it, the officer being present and acting in its execution. If the warrant is to be served by an agent of the bureau of criminal apprehension, an agent of the division of gambling enforcement, a state patrol trooper, or a conservation officer, the agent, state patrol trooper, or conservation officer shall notify the chief of police of an organized full-time police department of the municipality or, if there is no such local chief of police, the sheriff or a deputy sheriff of the county in which service is to be made prior to execution.

History: 1995 c 226 art 2 s 33; 1995 c 244 s 37

626.53 REPORT BY TELEPHONE AND LETTER.

Subdivision 1. **Reports to sheriffs and police chiefs.** The report required by section 626.52, subdivision 2, shall be made forthwith by telephone or in person, and shall be promptly supplemented by letter, enclosed in a securely sealed, postpaid envelope, addressed to the sheriff of the county in which the wound is examined, dressed, or otherwise treated; except that, if the place in which the patient is treated for such injury or the patient's wound dressed or bandaged be in a city of the first, second, or third class, such report shall be made and transmitted as herein provided to the chief of police of such city instead of the sheriff. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 2, the office of any such sheriff and of any such chief of police shall keep the report as a confidential communication and shall not disclose the name of the person making the same, and the party making the report shall not by reason thereof be subpoenaed, examined, or forced to testify in court as a consequence of having made such a report.

Subd. 2. **Reports to department of health.** Upon receiving a report of a wound caused by or arising from the discharge of a firearm, the sheriff or chief of police shall forward the information contained in the report to the commissioner of health. The commissioner of health shall keep the report as a confidential communication, as provided under subdivision 1. The commissioner shall maintain a statewide, computerized record system containing summary data, as defined in section 13.02, on information received under this subdivision.

History: 1995 c 244 s 38

626.556 REPORTING OF MALTREATMENT OF MINORS.

[For text of subs 1 to 3a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 4. **Immunity from liability.** (a) The following persons are immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might result from their actions, if they are acting in good faith:

- (1) any person making a voluntary or mandated report under subdivision 3 or under section 626.5561 or assisting in an assessment under this section or under section 626.5561;
- (2) any person with responsibility for performing duties under this section or supervisor employed by a local welfare agency or the commissioner complying with subdivision 10d; and

(3) any public or private school, facility as defined in subdivision 2, or the employee of any public or private school or facility who permits access by a local welfare agency or local law enforcement agency and assists in an investigation or assessment pursuant to subdivision 10 or under section 626.5561.

(b) A person who is a supervisor or person with responsibility for performing duties under this section employed by a local welfare agency or the commissioner complying with subdivisions 10 and 11 or section 626.5561 or any related rule or provision of law is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise result from the person's actions, if the person is (1) acting in good faith and exercising due care, or (2) acting in good faith and following the information collection procedures established under subdivision 10, paragraphs (h), (i), and (j).

(c) This subdivision does not provide immunity to any person for failure to make a required report or for committing neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse of a child.

(d) If a person who makes a voluntary or mandatory report under subdivision 3 prevails in a civil action from which the person has been granted immunity under this subdivision, the court may award the person attorney fees and costs.

[For text of subd 4a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 5. Malicious and reckless reports. Any person who knowingly or recklessly makes a false report under the provisions of this section shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees.

[For text of subs 6 to 9, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 10. Duties of local welfare agency and local law enforcement agency upon receipt of a report. (a) If the report alleges neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, or individual functioning within the family unit as a person responsible for the child's care, the local welfare agency shall immediately conduct an assessment and offer protective social services for purposes of preventing further abuses, safeguarding and enhancing the welfare of the abused or neglected minor, and preserving family life whenever possible. If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect or endangerment, under section 609.378, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews. Each agency shall prepare a separate report of the results of its investigation. In cases of alleged child maltreatment resulting in death, the local agency may rely on the fact-finding efforts of a law enforcement investigation to make a determination of whether or not maltreatment occurred. When necessary the local welfare agency shall seek authority to remove the child from the custody of a parent, guardian, or adult with whom the child is living. In performing any of these duties, the local welfare agency shall maintain appropriate records.

(b) When a local agency receives a report or otherwise has information indicating that a child who is a client, as defined in section 245.91, has been the subject of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect at an agency, facility, or program as defined in section 245.91, it shall, in addition to its other duties under this section, immediately inform the ombudsman established under sections 245.91 to 245.97.

(c) Authority of the local welfare agency responsible for assessing the child abuse or neglect report and of the local law enforcement agency for investigating the alleged abuse or neglect includes, but is not limited to, authority to interview, without parental consent, the alleged victim and any other minors who currently reside with or who have resided with the alleged offender. The interview may take place at school or at any facility or other place where the alleged victim or other minors might be found or the child may be transported to, and the interview conducted at, a place appropriate for the interview of a child designated by the local welfare agency or law enforcement agency. The interview may take place outside the presence of the alleged offender or parent, legal custodian, guardian, or school official. Except as provided in this paragraph, the parent, legal custodian, or guardian shall be notified by the responsible local welfare or law enforcement agency no later than the conclusion of

the investigation or assessment that this interview has occurred. Notwithstanding rule 49.02 of the Minnesota rules of procedure for juvenile courts, the juvenile court may, after hearing on an ex parte motion by the local welfare agency, order that, where reasonable cause exists, the agency withhold notification of this interview from the parent, legal custodian, or guardian. If the interview took place or is to take place on school property, the order shall specify that school officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notification of intent to interview the child on school property, as provided under this paragraph, and any other related information regarding the interview that may be a part of the child's school record. A copy of the order shall be sent by the local welfare or law enforcement agency to the appropriate school official.

(d) When the local welfare or local law enforcement agency determines that an interview should take place on school property, written notification of intent to interview the child on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct an interview on school property. For interviews conducted by the local welfare agency, the notification shall be signed by the chair of the local social services agency or the chair's designee. The notification shall be private data on individuals subject to the provisions of this paragraph. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notification or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation or assessment has been concluded. Until that time, the local welfare or law enforcement agency shall be solely responsible for any disclosures regarding the nature of the assessment or investigation.

Except where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the time and place, and manner of the interview on school premises shall be within the discretion of school officials, but the local welfare or law enforcement agency shall have the exclusive authority to determine who may attend the interview. The conditions as to time, place, and manner of the interview set by the school officials shall be reasonable and the interview shall be conducted not more than 24 hours after the receipt of the notification unless another time is considered necessary by agreement between the school officials and the local welfare or law enforcement agency. Where the school fails to comply with the provisions of this paragraph, the juvenile court may order the school to comply. Every effort must be made to reduce the disruption of the educational program of the child, other students, or school staff when an interview is conducted on school premises.

(e) Where the alleged offender or a person responsible for the care of the alleged victim or other minor prevents access to the victim or other minor by the local welfare agency, the juvenile court may order the parents, legal custodian, or guardian to produce the alleged victim or other minor for questioning by the local welfare agency or the local law enforcement agency outside the presence of the alleged offender or any person responsible for the child's care at reasonable places and times as specified by court order.

(f) Before making an order under paragraph (e), the court shall issue an order to show cause, either upon its own motion or upon a verified petition, specifying the basis for the requested interviews and fixing the time and place of the hearing. The order to show cause shall be served personally and shall be heard in the same manner as provided in other cases in the juvenile court. The court shall consider the need for appointment of a guardian ad litem to protect the best interests of the child. If appointed, the guardian ad litem shall be present at the hearing on the order to show cause.

(g) The commissioner, the ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation, the local welfare agencies responsible for investigating reports, and the local law enforcement agencies have the right to enter facilities as defined in subdivision 2 and to inspect and copy the facility's records, including medical records, as part of the investigation. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 13, they also have the right to inform the facility under investigation that they are conducting an investigation, to disclose to the facility the names of the individuals under investigation for abusing or neglecting a child, and to provide the facility with a copy of the report and the investigative findings.

(h) The local welfare agency shall collect available and relevant information to ascertain whether maltreatment occurred and whether protective services are needed. Information

collected includes, when relevant, information with regard to the person reporting the alleged maltreatment, including the nature of the reporter's relationship to the child and to the alleged offender, and the basis of the reporter's knowledge for the report; the child allegedly being maltreated; the alleged offender; the child's caretaker; and other collateral sources having relevant information related to the alleged maltreatment. The local welfare agency may make a determination of no maltreatment early in an assessment, and close the case and retain immunity, if the collected information shows no basis for a full assessment or investigation.

Information relevant to the assessment or investigation must be asked for, and may include:

(1) the child's sex and age, prior reports of maltreatment, information relating to developmental functioning, credibility of the child's statement, and whether the information provided under this clause is consistent with other information collected during the course of the assessment or investigation;

(2) the alleged offender's age, a record check for prior reports of maltreatment, and criminal charges and convictions. The local welfare agency must provide the alleged offender with an opportunity to make a statement. The alleged offender may submit supporting documentation relevant to the assessment or investigation;

(3) collateral source information regarding the alleged maltreatment and care of the child. Collateral information includes, when relevant: (i) a medical examination of the child; (ii) prior medical records relating to the alleged maltreatment or the care of the child and an interview with the treating professionals; and (iii) interviews with the child's caretakers, including the child's parent, guardian, foster parent, child care provider, teachers, counselors, family members, relatives, and other persons who may have knowledge regarding the alleged maltreatment and the care of the child.

Nothing in this paragraph precludes the local welfare agency from collecting other relevant information necessary to conduct the assessment or investigation. Notwithstanding the data's classification in the possession of any other agency, data acquired by the local welfare agency during the course of the assessment or investigation are private data on individuals and must be maintained in accordance with subdivision 11.

(i) In the initial stages of an assessment or investigation, the local welfare agency shall conduct a face-to-face observation of the child reported to be maltreated and a face-to-face interview of the alleged offender. The interview with the alleged offender may be postponed if it would jeopardize an active law enforcement investigation.

(j) The local welfare agency shall use a question and answer interviewing format with questioning as nondirective as possible to elicit spontaneous responses. The following interviewing methods and procedures must be used whenever possible when collecting information:

(1) audio recordings of all interviews with witnesses and collateral sources; and

(2) in cases of alleged sexual abuse, audio-video recordings of each interview with the alleged victim and child witnesses.

[For text of subd 10a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 10b. Duties of commissioner; neglect or abuse in a facility. (a) The commissioner shall immediately investigate if the report alleges that:

(1) a child who is in the care of a facility as defined in subdivision 2 is neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused by an individual in that facility, or has been so neglected or abused by an individual in that facility within the three years preceding the report; or

(2) a child was neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused by an individual in a facility defined in subdivision 2, while in the care of that facility within the three years preceding the report.

The commissioner shall arrange for the transmittal to the commissioner of reports received by local agencies and may delegate to a local welfare agency the duty to investigate reports. In conducting an investigation under this section, the commissioner has the powers and duties specified for local welfare agencies under this section. The commissioner or local welfare agency may interview any children who are or have been in the care of a facility under investigation and their parents, guardians, or legal custodians.

(b) Prior to any interview, the commissioner or local welfare agency shall notify the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who will be interviewed in the manner provided for in subdivision 10d, paragraph (a). If reasonable efforts to reach the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child in an out-of-home placement have failed, the child may be interviewed if there is reason to believe the interview is necessary to protect the child or other children in the facility. The commissioner or local agency must provide the information required in this subdivision to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child interviewed without parental notification as soon as possible after the interview. When the investigation is completed, any parent, guardian, or legal custodian notified under this subdivision shall receive the written memorandum provided for in subdivision 10d, paragraph (c).

(c) In conducting investigations under this subdivision the commissioner or local welfare agency shall obtain access to information consistent with subdivision 10, paragraphs (h), (i), and (j).

[For text of subs 10c and 10d, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 10e. Determinations. Upon the conclusion of every assessment or investigation it conducts, the local welfare agency shall make two determinations: first, whether maltreatment has occurred; and second, whether child protective services are needed. Determinations under this subdivision must be made based on a preponderance of the evidence.

(a) For the purposes of this subdivision, "maltreatment" means any of the following acts or omissions committed by a person responsible for the child's care:

- (1) physical abuse as defined in subdivision 2, paragraph (d);
- (2) neglect as defined in subdivision 2, paragraph (c);
- (3) sexual abuse as defined in subdivision 2, paragraph (a); or
- (4) mental injury as defined in subdivision 2, paragraph (k).

(b) For the purposes of this subdivision, a determination that child protective services are needed means that the local welfare agency has documented conditions during the assessment or investigation sufficient to cause a child protection worker, as defined in section 626.559, subdivision 1, to conclude that a child is at significant risk of maltreatment if protective intervention is not provided and that the individuals responsible for the child's care have not taken or are not likely to take actions to protect the child from maltreatment or risk of maltreatment.

(c) This subdivision does not mean that maltreatment has occurred solely because the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care in good faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or remedial care of the child, in lieu of medical care. However, if lack of medical care may result in serious danger to the child's health, the local welfare agency may ensure that necessary medical services are provided to the child.

Subd. 10f. Notice of determinations. Within ten working days of the conclusion of an assessment, the local welfare agency shall notify the parent or guardian of the child, the person determined to be maltreating the child, and if applicable, the director of the facility, of the determination and a summary of the specific reasons for the determination. The notice must also include a certification that the information collection procedures under subdivision 10, paragraphs (h), (i), and (j), were followed and a notice of the right of a data subject to obtain access to other private data on the subject collected, created, or maintained under this section. In addition, the notice shall include the length of time that the records will be kept under subdivision 11c. When there is no determination of either maltreatment or a need for services, the notice shall also include the alleged perpetrator's right to have the records destroyed.

[For text of subs 10g to 11c, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 12. Duties of facility operators. Any operator, employee, or volunteer worker at any facility who intentionally neglects, physically abuses, or sexually abuses any child in the care of that facility may be charged with a violation of section 609.255, 609.377, or 609.378. Any operator of a facility who knowingly permits conditions to exist which result in neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse of a child in the care of that facility may be charged with a violation of section 609.378.

Subd. 14. Conflict of interest. (a) A potential conflict of interest related to assisting in an assessment under this section resulting in a direct or shared financial interest with a child abuse and neglect treatment provider or resulting from a personal or family relationship with a party in the investigation must be considered by the local welfare agency in an effort to prevent unethical relationships.

(b) A person who conducts an assessment under this section or section 626.5561 may not have:

(1) any direct or shared financial interest or referral relationship resulting in a direct shared financial gain with a child abuse and neglect treatment provider; or

(2) a personal or family relationship with a party in the investigation.

If an independent assessor is not available, the person responsible for making the determination under this section may use the services of an assessor with a financial interest, referral, or personal or family relationship.

History: 1995 c 187 s 1-7; 1995 c 229 art 4 s 20

626.557 REPORTING OF MALTREATMENT OF VULNERABLE ADULTS.

Subdivision 1. Public policy. The legislature declares that the public policy of this state is to protect adults who, because of physical or mental disability or dependency on institutional services, are particularly vulnerable to maltreatment; to assist in providing safe environments for vulnerable adults; and to provide safe institutional or residential services, community-based services, or living environments for vulnerable adults who have been maltreated.

In addition, it is the policy of this state to require the reporting of suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults, to provide for the voluntary reporting of maltreatment of vulnerable adults, to require the investigation of the reports, and to provide protective and counseling services in appropriate cases.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 3. Timing of report. (a) A mandated reporter who has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been maltreated, or who has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has sustained a physical injury which is not reasonably explained shall immediately report the information to the common entry point. If an individual is a vulnerable adult solely because the individual is admitted to a facility, a mandated reporter is not required to report suspected maltreatment of the individual that occurred prior to admission, unless:

(1) the individual was admitted to the facility from another facility and the reporter has reason to believe the vulnerable adult was maltreated in the previous facility; or

(2) the reporter knows or has reason to believe that the individual is a vulnerable adult as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 21, clause (4).

(b) A person not required to report under the provisions of this section may voluntarily report as described above.

(c) Nothing in this section requires a report of known or suspected maltreatment, if the reporter knows or has reason to know that a report has been made to the common entry point.

(d) Nothing in this section shall preclude a reporter from also reporting to a law enforcement agency.

Subd. 3a. Report not required. The following events are not required to be reported under this section:

(a) A circumstance where federal law specifically prohibits a person from disclosing patient identifying information in connection with a report of suspected maltreatment, unless the vulnerable adult, or the vulnerable adult's guardian, conservator, or legal representative, has consented to disclosure in a manner which conforms to federal requirements. Facilities whose patients or residents are covered by such a federal law shall seek consent to the disclosure of suspected maltreatment from each patient or resident, or a guardian, conservator, or legal representative, upon the patient's or resident's admission to the facility. Persons who are prohibited by federal law from reporting an incident of suspected maltreatment shall immediately seek consent to make a report.

(b) Verbal or physical aggression occurring between patients, residents, or clients of a facility, or self-abusive behavior by these persons does not constitute abuse unless the be-

havior causes serious harm. The operator of the facility or a designee shall record incidents of aggression and self-abusive behavior to facilitate review by licensing agencies and county and local welfare agencies.

(c) Accidents as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 3.

(d) Events occurring in a facility that result from an individual's single mistake, as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 17, paragraph (c), clause (4).

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a report of financial exploitation, as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 9, solely on the basis of the transfer of money or property by gift or as compensation for services rendered.

Subd. 4. Reporting. A mandated reporter shall immediately make an oral report to the common entry point. Use of a telecommunications device for the deaf or other similar device shall be considered an oral report. The common entry point may not require written reports. To the extent possible, the report must be of sufficient content to identify the vulnerable adult, the caregiver, the nature and extent of the suspected maltreatment, any evidence of previous maltreatment, the name and address of the reporter, the time, date, and location of the incident, and any other information that the reporter believes might be helpful in investigating the suspected maltreatment. A mandated reporter may disclose not public data, as defined in section 13.02, and medical records under section 144.335, to the extent necessary to comply with this subdivision.

Subd. 4a. Internal reporting of maltreatment. (a) Each facility shall establish and enforce an ongoing written procedure in compliance with applicable licensing rules to ensure that all cases of suspected maltreatment are reported. If a facility has an internal reporting procedure, a mandated reporter may meet the reporting requirements of this section by reporting internally. However, the facility remains responsible for complying with the immediate reporting requirements of this section.

(b) A facility with an internal reporting procedure that receives an internal report by a mandated reporter shall give the mandated reporter a written notice stating whether the facility has reported the incident to the common entry point. The written notice must be provided within two working days and in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the reporter.

(c) The written response to the mandated reporter shall note that if the mandated reporter is not satisfied with the action taken by the facility on whether to report the incident to the common entry point, then the mandated reporter may report externally.

(d) A facility may not prohibit a mandated reporter from reporting externally, and a facility is prohibited from retaliating against a mandated reporter who reports an incident to the common entry point in good faith. The written notice by the facility must inform the mandated reporter of this protection from retaliatory measures by the facility against the mandated reporter for reporting externally.

Subd. 5. Immunity; protection for reporters. (a) A person who makes a good faith report is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise result from making the report, or from participating in the investigation, or for failure to comply fully with the reporting obligation under section 609.234 or 626.557, subdivision 7.

(b) A person employed by a lead agency or a state licensing agency who is conducting or supervising an investigation or enforcing the law in compliance with this section or any related rule or provision of law is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise result from the person's actions, if the person is acting in good faith and exercising due care.

(c) A person who knows or has reason to know a report has been made to a common entry point and who in good faith participates in an investigation of alleged maltreatment is immune from civil or criminal liability that otherwise might result from making the report, or from failure to comply with the reporting obligation or from participating in the investigation.

(d) The identity of any reporter may not be disclosed, except as provided in subdivision 12b.

Subd. 6. Falsified reports. A person or facility who intentionally makes a false report under the provisions of this section shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered.

ferred by the reported facility, person or persons and for punitive damages up to \$10,000 and attorney's fees.

Subd. 7. Failure to report. A mandated reporter who negligently or intentionally fails to report is liable for damages caused by the failure. Nothing in this subdivision imposes vicarious liability for the acts or omissions of others.

Subd. 8. Evidence not privileged. No evidence regarding the maltreatment of the vulnerable adult shall be excluded in any proceeding arising out of the alleged maltreatment on the grounds of lack of competency under section 595.02.

Subd. 9. Common entry point designation. (a) Each county board shall designate a common entry point for reports of suspected maltreatment. Two or more county boards may jointly designate a single common entry point.

The common entry point is the unit responsible for receiving the report of suspected maltreatment under this section.

(b) The common entry point must be available 24 hours per day to take calls from reporters of suspected maltreatment.

The common entry point shall use a standard intake form that includes:

- (1) the time and date of the report;
 - (2) the name, address, and telephone number of the person reporting;
 - (3) the time, date, and location of the incident;
 - (4) the names of the persons involved, including but not limited to, perpetrators, alleged victims, and witnesses;
 - (5) whether there was a risk of imminent danger to the alleged victim;
 - (6) a description of the suspected maltreatment;
 - (7) the disability, if any, of the alleged victim;
 - (8) the relationship of the alleged perpetrator to the alleged victim;
 - (9) whether a facility was involved and, if so, which agency licenses the facility;
 - (10) any action taken by the common entry point;
 - (11) whether law enforcement has been notified;
 - (12) whether the reporter wishes to receive notification of the initial and final reports;
- and

(13) if the report is from a facility with an internal reporting procedure, the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person who initiated the report internally.

(c) The common entry point is not required to complete each item on the form prior to dispatching the report to the appropriate investigative agency.

(d) The common entry point shall immediately report to a law enforcement agency any incident in which there is reason to believe a crime has been committed.

(e) If a report is initially made to a law enforcement agency or a lead agency, those agencies shall take the report on the appropriate common entry point intake forms and immediately forward a copy to the common entry point.

(f) The common entry point staff must receive training on how to screen and dispatch reports efficiently and in accordance with this section.

(g) When a centralized database is available, the common entry point has access to the centralized database and must log the reports in on the database.

Subd. 9a. Evaluation and referral of reports made to a common entry point unit. The common entry point must screen the reports of alleged or suspected maltreatment for immediate risk and make all necessary referrals as follows:

(1) if the common entry point determines that there is an immediate need for adult protective services, the common entry point agency shall immediately notify the appropriate county agency;

(2) if the report contains suspected criminal activity against a vulnerable adult, the common entry point shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency;

(3) if the report references alleged or suspected maltreatment and there is no immediate need for adult protective services, the common entry point shall notify the appropriate lead agency as soon as possible, but in any event no longer than two working days;

(4) if the report does not reference alleged or suspected maltreatment, the common entry point may determine whether the information will be referred; and

(5) if the report contains information about a suspicious death, the common entry point shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies and the ombudsman established under section 245.92. Law enforcement agencies shall coordinate with the local medical examiner and the ombudsman as provided by law.

Subd. 9b. Response to reports. Law enforcement is the primary agency to conduct investigations of any incident in which there is reason to believe a crime has been committed. Law enforcement shall initiate a response immediately. If the common entry point notified a county agency for adult protective services, law enforcement shall cooperate with that county agency when both agencies are involved and shall exchange data to the extent authorized in subdivision 12b, paragraph (g). County adult protection shall initiate a response immediately. Each lead agency shall complete the investigative process for reports within its jurisdiction. Any other lead agency, county, adult protective agency, licensed facility, or law enforcement agency shall cooperate and may assist another agency upon request within the limits of its resources and expertise and shall exchange data to the extent authorized in subdivision 12b, paragraph (g). The lead agency shall obtain the results of any investigation conducted by law enforcement officials. The lead agency has the right to enter facilities and inspect and copy records as part of investigations. The lead agency has access to not public data, as defined in section 13.02, and medical records under section 144.335, that are maintained by facilities to the extent necessary to conduct its investigation. Each lead agency shall develop guidelines for prioritizing reports for investigation.

Subd. 9c. Lead agency; notifications, dispositions, and determinations. (a) Upon request of the reporter, the lead agency shall notify the reporter that it has received the report, and provide information on the initial disposition of the report within five business days of receipt of the report, provided that the notification will not endanger the vulnerable adult or hamper the investigation.

(b) Upon conclusion of every investigation it conducts, the lead agency shall make a final disposition as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 8.

(c) When determining whether the facility or individual is the responsible party for substantiated maltreatment, the lead agency shall consider at least the following mitigating factors:

(1) whether the actions of the facility or the individual caregivers were in accordance with, and followed the terms of, an erroneous physician order, prescription, resident care plan, or directive. This is not a mitigating factor when the facility or caregiver is responsible for the issuance of the erroneous order, prescription, plan, or directive or knows or should have known of the errors and took no reasonable measures to correct the defect before administering care;

(2) the comparative responsibility between the facility, other caregivers, and requirements placed upon the employee, including but not limited to, the facility's compliance with related regulatory standards and factors such as the adequacy of facility policies and procedures, the adequacy of facility training, the adequacy of an individual's participation in the training, the adequacy of caregiver supervision, the adequacy of facility staffing levels, and a consideration of the scope of the individual employee's authority; and

(3) whether the facility or individual followed professional standards in exercising professional judgment.

(d) The lead agency shall complete its final disposition within 60 calendar days. If the lead agency is unable to complete its final disposition within 60 calendar days, the lead agency shall notify the following persons provided that the notification will not endanger the vulnerable adult or hamper the investigation: (1) the vulnerable adult or the vulnerable adult's legal guardian, when known, if the lead agency knows them to be aware of the investigation and (2) the facility, where applicable. The notice shall contain the reason for the delay and the projected completion date. If the lead agency is unable to complete its final disposition by a subsequent projected completion date, the lead agency shall again notify the vulnerable adult or the vulnerable adult's legal guardian, when known if the lead agency knows them to be aware of the investigation, and the facility, where applicable, of the reason

for the delay and the revised projected completion date provided that the notification will not endanger the vulnerable adult or hamper the investigation. A lead agency's inability to complete the final disposition within 60 calendar days or by any projected completion date does not invalidate the final disposition.

(e) Within ten calendar days of completing the final disposition, the lead agency shall provide a copy of the public investigation memorandum under subdivision 12b, paragraph (b), clause (1), when required to be completed under this section, to the following persons: (1) the vulnerable adult, or the vulnerable adult's legal guardian, if known unless the lead agency knows that the notification would endanger the well-being of the vulnerable adult; (2) the reporter, if the reporter requested notification when making the report, provided this notification would not endanger the well-being of the vulnerable adult; (3) the alleged perpetrator, if known; (4) the facility; and (5) the ombudsman for older Minnesotans, or the ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation, as appropriate.

(f) The lead agency shall notify the vulnerable adult who is the subject of the report or the vulnerable adult's legal guardian, if known, and any person or facility determined to have maltreated a vulnerable adult, of their appeal rights under this section.

(g) The lead agency shall routinely provide investigation memoranda for substantiated reports to the appropriate licensing boards. These reports must include the names of substantiated perpetrators. The lead agency may not provide investigative memoranda for inconclusive or false reports to the appropriate licensing boards unless the lead agency's investigation gives reason to believe that there may have been a violation of the applicable professional practice laws. If the investigation memorandum is provided to a licensing board, the subject of the investigation memorandum shall be notified and receive a summary of the investigative findings.

(h) In order to avoid duplication, licensing boards shall consider the findings of the lead agency in their investigations if they choose to investigate. This does not preclude licensing boards from considering other information.

(i) The lead agency must provide to the commissioner of human services its final dispositions, including the names of all substantiated perpetrators. The commissioner of human services shall establish records to retain the names of substantiated perpetrators.

Subd. 9d. Administrative reconsideration of the final disposition. Any individual or facility which a lead agency determines has maltreated a vulnerable adult, or the vulnerable adult or vulnerable adult's designee, regardless of the lead agency's determination, who contests the lead agency's final disposition of an allegation of maltreatment, may request the lead agency to reconsider its final disposition. The request for reconsideration must be submitted in writing to the lead agency within 15 calendar days after receipt of notice of final disposition.

If the lead agency denies the request or fails to act upon the request within 15 calendar days after receiving the request for reconsideration, the person or facility entitled to a fair hearing under section 256.045, may submit to the commissioner of human services a written request for a hearing under that statute.

If, as a result of the reconsideration, the lead agency changes the final disposition, it shall notify the parties specified in subdivision 9c, paragraph (d).

Subd. 9e. Education requirements. (a) The commissioners of health, human services, and public safety shall cooperate in the development of a joint program for education of lead agency investigators in the appropriate techniques for investigation of complaints of maltreatment. This program must be developed by July 1, 1996. The program must include but need not be limited to the following areas: (1) information collection and preservation; (2) analysis of facts; (3) levels of evidence; (4) conclusions based on evidence; (5) interviewing skills, including specialized training to interview people with unique needs; (6) report writing; (7) coordination and referral to other necessary agencies such as law enforcement and judicial agencies; (8) human relations and cultural diversity; (9) the dynamics of adult abuse and neglect within family systems and the appropriate methods for interviewing relatives in the course of the assessment or investigation; (10) the protective social services that are available to protect alleged victims from further abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation; (11) the methods by which lead agency investigators and law enforcement workers cooper-

ate in conducting assessments and investigations in order to avoid duplication of efforts; and (12) data practices laws and procedures, including provisions for sharing data.

(b) The commissioners of health, human services, and public safety shall offer at least annual education to others on the requirements of this section, on how this section is implemented, and investigation techniques.

(c) The commissioner of human services, in coordination with the commissioner of public safety shall provide training for the common entry point staff as required in this subdivision and the program courses described in this subdivision, at least four times per year. At a minimum, the training shall be held twice annually in the seven-county metropolitan area and twice annually outside the seven-county metropolitan area. The commissioners shall give priority in the program areas cited in paragraph (a) to persons currently performing assessments and investigations pursuant to this section.

(d) The commissioner of public safety shall notify in writing law enforcement personnel of any new requirements under this section. The commissioner of public safety shall conduct regional training for law enforcement personnel regarding their responsibility under this section.

(e) Each lead agency investigator must complete the education program specified by this subdivision within the first 12 months of work as a lead agency investigator.

A lead agency investigator employed when these requirements take effect must complete the program within the first year after training is available or as soon as training is available.

All lead agency investigators having responsibility for investigation duties under this section must receive a minimum of eight hours of continuing education or in-service training each year specific to their duties under this section.

Subd. 10. Duties of county social service agency. (a) Upon receipt of a report from the common entry point staff, the county social service agency shall immediately assess and offer emergency and continuing protective social services for purposes of preventing further maltreatment and for safeguarding the welfare of the maltreated vulnerable adult. In cases of suspected sexual abuse, the county social service agency shall immediately arrange for and make available to the vulnerable adult appropriate medical examination and treatment. When necessary in order to protect the vulnerable adult from further harm, the county social service agency shall seek authority to remove the vulnerable adult from the situation in which the maltreatment occurred. The county social service agency may also investigate to determine whether the conditions which resulted in the reported maltreatment place other vulnerable adults in jeopardy of being maltreated and offer protective social services that are called for by its determination.

(b) County social service agencies may enter facilities and inspect and copy records as part of an investigation. The county social service agency has access to not public data, as defined in section 13.02, and medical records under section 144.335, that are maintained by facilities to the extent necessary to conduct its investigation. The inquiry is not limited to the written records of the facility, but may include every other available source of information.

(c) When necessary in order to protect a vulnerable adult from serious harm, the county social service agency shall immediately intervene on behalf of that adult to help the family, vulnerable adult, or other interested person by seeking any of the following:

(1) a restraining order or a court order for removal of the perpetrator from the residence of the vulnerable adult pursuant to section 518B.01;

(2) the appointment of a guardian or conservator pursuant to sections 525.539 to 525.6198, or guardianship or conservatorship pursuant to chapter 252A;

(3) replacement of a guardian or conservator suspected of maltreatment and appointment of a suitable person as guardian or conservator, pursuant to sections 525.539 to 525.6198; or

(4) a referral to the prosecuting attorney for possible criminal prosecution of the perpetrator under chapter 609.

The expenses of legal intervention must be paid by the county in the case of indigent persons, under section 525.703 and chapter 563.

In proceedings under sections 525.539 to 525.6198, if a suitable relative or other person is not available to petition for guardianship or conservatorship, a county employee shall present the petition with representation by the county attorney. The county shall contract with or arrange for a suitable person or organization to provide ongoing guardianship services. If the county presents evidence to the probate court that it has made a diligent effort and no other suitable person can be found, a county employee may serve as guardian or conservator. The county shall not retaliate against the employee for any action taken on behalf of the ward or conservatee even if the action is adverse to the county's interest. Any person retaliated against in violation of this subdivision shall have a cause of action against the county and shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs of the action if the action is upheld by the court.

Subd. 10a. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 11a. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 12. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 12b. Data management. (a) County data. In performing any of the duties of this section as a lead agency, the county social service agency shall maintain appropriate records. Data collected by the county social service agency under this section are welfare data under section 13.46. Notwithstanding section 13.46, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), data under this paragraph that are inactive investigative data on an individual who is a vendor of services are private data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02. The identity of the reporter may only be disclosed as provided in paragraph (c).

Data maintained by the common entry point are confidential data on individuals or protected nonpublic data as defined in section 13.02. Notwithstanding section 138.163, the common entry point shall destroy data three calendar years after date of receipt.

(b) Lead agency data. The commissioners of health and human services shall prepare an investigation memorandum for each report alleging maltreatment investigated under this section. During an investigation by the commissioner of health or the commissioner of human services, data collected under this section are confidential data on individuals or protected nonpublic data as defined in section 13.02. Upon completion of the investigation, the data are classified as provided in clauses (1) to (3) and paragraph (c).

(1) The investigation memorandum must contain the following data, which are public:

(i) the name of the facility investigated;

(ii) a statement of the nature of the alleged maltreatment;

(iii) pertinent information obtained from medical or other records reviewed;

(iv) the identity of the investigator;

(v) a summary of the investigation's findings;

(vi) statement of whether the report was found to be substantiated, inconclusive, false, or that no determination will be made;

(vii) a statement of any action taken by the facility;

(viii) a statement of any action taken by the lead agency; and

(ix) when a lead agency's determination has substantiated maltreatment, a statement of whether an individual, individuals, or a facility were responsible for the substantiated maltreatment, if known.

The investigation memorandum must be written in a manner which protects the identity of the reporter and of the vulnerable adult and may not contain the names or, to the extent possible, data on individuals or private data listed in clause (2).

(2) Data on individuals collected and maintained in the investigation memorandum are private data, including:

(i) the name of the vulnerable adult;

(ii) the identity of the individual alleged to be the perpetrator;

(iii) the identity of the individual substantiated as the perpetrator; and

(iv) the identity of all individuals interviewed as part of the investigation.

(3) Other data on individuals maintained as part of an investigation under this section are private data on individuals upon completion of the investigation.

(c) **Identity of reporter.** The subject of the report may compel disclosure of the name of the reporter only with the consent of the reporter or upon a written finding by a court that the report was false and there is evidence that the report was made in bad faith. This subdivision does not alter disclosure responsibilities or obligations under the rules of criminal procedure, except that where the identity of the reporter is relevant to a criminal prosecution, the district court shall do an in-camera review prior to determining whether to order disclosure of the identity of the reporter.

(d) **Destruction of data.** Notwithstanding section 138.163, data maintained under this section by the commissioners of health and human services must be destroyed under the following schedule:

(1) data from reports determined to be false, two years after the finding was made;

(2) data from reports determined to be inconclusive, four years after the finding was made;

(3) data from reports determined to be substantiated, seven years after the finding was made; and

(4) data from reports which were not investigated by a lead agency and for which there is no final disposition, two years from the date of the report.

(e) **Summary of reports.** The commissioners of health and human services shall each annually prepare a summary of the number and type of reports of alleged maltreatment involving licensed facilities reported under this section.

(f) **Record retention policy.** Each lead agency must have a record retention policy.

(g) **Exchange of information.** Lead agencies, prosecuting authorities, and law enforcement agencies may exchange not public data, as defined in section 13.02, if the agency or authority requesting the data determines that the data are pertinent and necessary to the requesting agency in initiating, furthering, or completing an investigation under this section. Data collected under this section must be made available to prosecuting authorities and law enforcement officials, local county agencies, and licensing agencies investigating the alleged maltreatment under this section.

(h) **Completion time.** Each lead agency shall keep records of the length of time it takes to complete its investigations.

(i) **Notification of other affected parties.** A lead agency may notify other affected parties and their authorized representative if the agency has reason to believe maltreatment has occurred and determines the information will safeguard the well-being of the affected parties or dispel widespread rumor or unrest in the affected facility.

(j) **Federal requirements.** Under any notification provision of this section, where federal law specifically prohibits the disclosure of patient identifying information, a lead agency may not provide any notice unless the vulnerable adult has consented to disclosure in a manner which conforms to federal requirements.

Subd. 13. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 14. **Abuse prevention plans.** (a) Each facility, except home health agencies and personal care attendant services providers, shall establish and enforce an ongoing written abuse prevention plan. The plan shall contain an assessment of the physical plant, its environment, and its population identifying factors which may encourage or permit abuse, and a statement of specific measures to be taken to minimize the risk of abuse. The plan shall comply with any rules governing the plan promulgated by the licensing agency.

(b) Each facility, including a home health care agency and personal care attendant services providers, shall develop an individual abuse prevention plan for each vulnerable adult residing there or receiving services from them. The plan shall contain an individualized assessment of the person's susceptibility to abuse, and a statement of the specific measures to be taken to minimize the risk of abuse to that person. For the purposes of this clause, the term "abuse" includes self-abuse.

Subd. 15. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

Subd. 16. **Implementation authority.** (a) By September 1, 1995, the attorney general and the commissioners of health and human services, in coordination with representatives of other entities that receive or investigate maltreatment reports, shall develop the common re-

port form described in subdivision 9. The form may be used by mandated reporters, county social service agencies, law enforcement entities, licensing agencies, or ombudsman offices.

(b) The commissioners of health and human services shall as soon as possible promulgate rules necessary to implement the requirements of this section. The commissioners of health and human services may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to sections 14.29 to 14.36.

(c) By December 31, 1995, the commissioners of health, human services, and public safety shall develop criteria for the design of a statewide database utilizing data collected on the common intake form of the common entry point. The statewide database must be accessible to all entities required to conduct investigations under this section, and must be accessible to ombudsman and advocacy programs.

(d) By September 1, 1995, each lead agency shall develop the guidelines required in subdivision 9b.

Subd. 17. Retaliation prohibited. (a) A facility or person shall not retaliate against any person who reports in good faith suspected maltreatment pursuant to this section, or against a vulnerable adult with respect to whom a report is made, because of the report.

(b) In addition to any remedies allowed under sections 181.931 to 181.935, any facility or person which retaliates against any person because of a report of suspected maltreatment is liable to that person for actual damages, punitive damages up to \$10,000, and attorney's fees.

(c) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any adverse action, as defined below, within 90 days of a report, is retaliatory. For purposes of this clause, the term "adverse action" refers to action taken by a facility or person involved in a report against the person making the report or the person with respect to whom the report was made because of the report, and includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) discharge or transfer from the facility;
- (2) discharge from or termination of employment;
- (3) demotion or reduction in remuneration for services;
- (4) restriction or prohibition of access to the facility or its residents; or
- (5) any restriction of rights set forth in section 144.651.

Subd. 18. Outreach. The commissioner of human services shall maintain an aggressive program to educate those required to report, as well as the general public, about the requirements of this section using a variety of media. The commissioner of human services shall print and make available the form developed under subdivision 9.

Subd. 19. [Repealed, 1995 c 229 art 1 s 24]

History: 1995 c 229 art 1 s 1-21

626.5572 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. Scope. For the purpose of section 626.557, the following terms have the meanings given them, unless otherwise specified.

Subd. 2. Abuse. "Abuse" means:

(a) An act against a vulnerable adult that constitutes a violation of, an attempt to violate, or aiding and abetting a violation of:

- (1) assault in the first through fifth degrees as defined in sections 609.221 to 609.224;
- (2) the use of drugs to injure or facilitate crime as defined in section 609.235;
- (3) the solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution as defined in section 609.322; and
- (4) criminal sexual conduct in the first through fifth degrees as defined in sections 609.342 to 609.3451.

A violation includes any action that meets the elements of the crime, regardless of whether there is a criminal proceeding or conviction.

(b) Conduct which is not an accident or therapeutic conduct as defined in this section, which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce physical pain or injury or emotional distress including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, biting, or corporal punishment of a vulnerable adult;

(2) use of repeated or malicious oral, written, or gestured language toward a vulnerable adult or the treatment of a vulnerable adult which would be considered by a reasonable person to be disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing, or threatening;

(3) use of any aversive or deprivation procedure, unreasonable confinement, or involuntary seclusion, including the forced separation of the vulnerable adult from other persons against the will of the vulnerable adult or the legal representative of the vulnerable adult; and

(4) use of any aversive or deprivation procedures for persons with developmental disabilities or related conditions not authorized under section 245.825.

(c) Any sexual contact or penetration as defined in section 609.341, between a facility staff person or a person providing services in the facility and a resident, patient, or client of that facility.

(d) The act of forcing, compelling, coercing, or enticing a vulnerable adult against the vulnerable adult's will to perform services for the advantage of another.

(e) For purposes of this section, a vulnerable adult is not abused for the sole reason that the vulnerable adult or a person with authority to make health care decisions for the vulnerable adult under sections 144.651, 144A.44, chapter 145B, 145C or 252A, or section 253B.03 or 525.539 to 525.6199, refuses consent or withdraws consent, consistent with that authority and within the boundary of reasonable medical practice, to any therapeutic conduct, including any care, service, or procedure to diagnose, maintain, or treat the physical or mental condition of the vulnerable adult or, where permitted under law, to provide nutrition and hydration parenterally or through intubation. This paragraph does not enlarge or diminish rights otherwise held under law by:

(1) a vulnerable adult or a person acting on behalf of a vulnerable adult, including an involved family member, to consent to or refuse consent for therapeutic conduct; or

(2) a caregiver to offer or provide or refuse to offer or provide therapeutic conduct.

(f) For purposes of this section, a vulnerable adult is not abused for the sole reason that the vulnerable adult, a person with authority to make health care decisions for the vulnerable adult, or a caregiver in good faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or remedial care of the vulnerable adult in lieu of medical care, provided that this is consistent with the prior practice or belief of the vulnerable adult or with the expressed intentions of the vulnerable adult.

(g) For purposes of this section, a vulnerable adult is not abused for the sole reason that the vulnerable adult, who is not impaired in judgment or capacity by mental or emotional dysfunction or undue influence, engages in consensual sexual contact with:

(1) a person, including a facility staff person, when a consensual sexual personal relationship existed prior to the caregiving relationship; or

(2) a personal care attendant, regardless of whether the consensual sexual personal relationship existed prior to the caregiving relationship.

Subd. 3. Accident. "Accident" means a sudden, unforeseen, and unexpected occurrence or event which:

(1) is not likely to occur and which could not have been prevented by exercise of due care; and

(2) if occurring while a vulnerable adult is receiving services from a facility, happens when the facility and the employee or person providing services in the facility are in compliance with the laws and rules relevant to the occurrence or event.

Subd. 4. Caregiver. "Caregiver" means an individual or facility who has responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult as a result of a family relationship, or who has assumed responsibility for all or a portion of the care of a vulnerable adult voluntarily, by contract, or by agreement.

Subd. 5. Common entry point. "Common entry point" means the entity designated by each county responsible for receiving reports under section 626.557.

Subd. 6. Facility. (a) "Facility" means a hospital or other entity required to be licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.58; a nursing home required to be licensed to serve adults under

section 144A.02; a residential or nonresidential facility required to be licensed to serve adults under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16; a home care provider licensed or required to be licensed under section 144A.46; or a person or organization that exclusively offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistant services under the medical assistance program as authorized under sections 256B.04, subdivision 16, 256B.0625, subdivision 19a, and 256B.0627.

(b) For home care providers and personal care attendants, the term "facility" refers to the provider or person or organization that exclusively offers, provides, or arranges for personal care services, and does not refer to the client's home or other location at which services are rendered.

Subd. 7. False. "False" means a preponderance of the evidence shows that an act that meets the definition of maltreatment did not occur.

Subd. 8. Final disposition. "Final disposition" is the determination of an investigation by a lead agency that a report of maltreatment under Laws 1995, chapter 229, is substantiated, inconclusive, false, or that no determination will be made. When a lead agency determination has substantiated maltreatment, the final disposition also identifies, if known, which individual or individuals were responsible for the substantiated maltreatment, and whether a facility was responsible for the substantiated maltreatment.

Subd. 9. Financial exploitation. "Financial exploitation" means:

(a) In breach of a fiduciary obligation recognized elsewhere in law, including pertinent regulations, contractual obligations, documented consent by a competent person, or the obligations of a responsible party under section 144.6501, a person:

(1) engages in unauthorized expenditure of funds entrusted to the actor by the vulnerable adult which results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult; or

(2) fails to use the financial resources of the vulnerable adult to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care, therapeutic conduct or supervision for the vulnerable adult, and the failure results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult.

(b) In the absence of legal authority a person:

(1) willfully uses, withholds, or disposes of funds or property of a vulnerable adult;

(2) obtains for the actor or another the performance of services by a third person for the wrongful profit or advantage of the actor or another to the detriment of the vulnerable adult;

(3) acquires possession or control of, or an interest in, funds or property of a vulnerable adult through the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, or fraud; or

(4) forces, compels, coerces, or entices a vulnerable adult against the vulnerable adult's will to perform services for the profit or advantage of another.

(c) Nothing in this definition requires a facility or caregiver to provide financial management or supervise financial management for a vulnerable adult except as otherwise required by law.

Subd. 10. Immediately. "Immediately" means as soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours from the time initial knowledge that the incident occurred has been received.

Subd. 11. Inconclusive. "Inconclusive" means there is less than a preponderance of evidence to show that maltreatment did or did not occur.

Subd. 12. Initial disposition. "Initial disposition" is the lead agency's determination of whether the report will be assigned for further investigation.

Subd. 13. Lead agency. "Lead agency" is the primary administrative agency responsible for investigating reports made under section 626.557.

(a) The department of health is the lead agency for the facilities which are licensed or are required to be licensed as hospitals, home care providers, nursing homes, residential care homes, or boarding care homes.

(b) The department of human services is the lead agency for the programs licensed or required to be licensed as adult day care, adult foster care, programs for people with developmental disabilities, mental health programs, chemical health programs, or personal care provider organizations.

(c) The county social service agency or its designee is the lead agency for all other reports.

Subd. 14. **Legal authority.** "Legal authority" includes, but is not limited to: (1) a fiduciary obligation recognized elsewhere in law, including pertinent regulations; (2) a contractual obligation; or (3) documented consent by a competent person.

Subd. 15. **Maltreatment.** "Maltreatment" means abuse as defined in subdivision 2, neglect as defined in subdivision 17, or financial exploitation as defined in subdivision 9.

Subd. 16. **Mandated reporter.** "Mandated reporter" means a professional or professional's delegate while engaged in: (1) social services; (2) law enforcement; (3) education; (4) the care of vulnerable adults; (5) any of the occupations referred to in section 214.01, subdivision 2; (6) an employee of a rehabilitation facility certified by the commissioner of jobs and training for vocational rehabilitation; (7) an employee or person providing services in a facility as defined in subdivision 6; or (8) a person that performs the duties of the medical examiner or coroner.

Subd. 17. **Neglect.** "Neglect" means:

(a) The failure or omission by a caregiver to supply a vulnerable adult with care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is:

(1) reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult; and

(2) which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct.

(b) The absence or likelihood of absence of care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult which a reasonable person would deem essential to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's health, safety, or comfort considering the physical or mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult.

(c) For purposes of this section, a vulnerable adult is not neglected for the sole reason that:

(1) the vulnerable adult or a person with authority to make health care decisions for the vulnerable adult under sections 144.651, 144A.44, chapter 145B, 145C, or 252A, or section 253B.03, or 525.539 to 525.6199, refuses consent or withdraws consent, consistent with that authority and within the boundary of reasonable medical practice, to any therapeutic conduct, including any care, service, or procedure to diagnose, maintain, or treat the physical or mental condition of the vulnerable adult, or, where permitted under law, to provide nutrition and hydration parenterally or through intubation; this paragraph does not enlarge or diminish rights otherwise held under law by:

(i) a vulnerable adult or a person acting on behalf of a vulnerable adult, including an involved family member, to consent to or refuse consent for therapeutic conduct; or

(ii) a caregiver to offer or provide or refuse to offer or provide therapeutic conduct; or

(2) the vulnerable adult, a person with authority to make health care decisions for the vulnerable adult, or a caregiver in good faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or remedial care of the vulnerable adult in lieu of medical care, provided that this is consistent with the prior practice or belief of the vulnerable adult or with the expressed intentions of the vulnerable adult;

(3) the vulnerable adult, who is not impaired in judgment or capacity by mental or emotional dysfunction or undue influence, engages in sexual contact with: (i) a person including a facility staff person when a consensual sexual personal relationship existed prior to the caregiving relationship; or (ii) a personal care attendant, regardless of whether the consensual sexual personal relationship existed prior to the caregiving relationship; or

(4) an individual makes a single mistake in the provision of therapeutic conduct to a vulnerable adult which: (i) does not result in injury or harm which reasonably requires the care of a physician or mental health professional, whether or not the care was sought; (ii) is immediately reported internally by the employee or person providing services in the facility; and (iii) is sufficiently documented for review and evaluation by the facility and any applicable licensing and certification agency.

(d) Nothing in this definition requires a caregiver, if regulated, to provide services in excess of those required by the caregiver's license, certification, registration, or other regulation.

Subd. 18. Report. "Report" means a statement concerning all the circumstances surrounding the alleged or suspected maltreatment, as defined in this section, of a vulnerable adult which are known to the reporter at the time the statement is made.

Subd. 19. Substantiated. "Substantiated" means a preponderance of the evidence shows that an act that meets the definition of maltreatment occurred.

Subd. 20. Therapeutic conduct. "Therapeutic conduct" means the provision of program services, health care, or other personal care services done in good faith in the interests of the vulnerable adult by: (1) an individual, facility, or employee or person providing services in a facility under the rights, privileges and responsibilities conferred by state license, certification, or registration; or (2) a caregiver.

Subd. 21. Vulnerable adult. "Vulnerable adult" means any person 18 years of age or older who:

(1) is a resident or inpatient of a facility;

(2) receives services at or from a facility required to be licensed to serve adults under sections 245A.01 to 245A.15, except that a person receiving outpatient services for treatment of chemical dependency or mental illness, or one who is committed as a sexual psychopathic personality or as a sexually dangerous person under chapter 253B, is not considered a vulnerable adult unless the person meets the requirements of clause (4);

(3) receives services from a home care provider required to be licensed under section 144A.46; or from a person or organization that exclusively offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistant services under the medical assistance program as authorized under sections 256B.04, subdivision 16, 256B.0625, subdivision 19a, and 256B.0627; or

(4) regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction:

(i) that impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for the individual's own care without assistance, including the provision of food, shelter, clothing, health care, or supervision; and

(ii) because of the dysfunction or infirmity and the need for assistance, the individual has an impaired ability to protect the individual from maltreatment.

History: 1995 c 229 art 1 s 22

626.5573 NEGLIGENCE ACTIONS.

A violation of sections 626.557 to 626.5572 shall be admissible as evidence of negligence, but shall not be considered negligence per se.

History: 1995 c 229 art 1 s 23

626.563 APPOINTMENT OF CHILD INTERMEDIARY IN CERTAIN CHILD ABUSE CASES; PILOT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(a) "Child abuse" means any act which involves a minor victim and which constitutes a violation of section 609.221, 609.222, 609.223, 609.224, 609.2242, 609.255, 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, 609.377, or 609.378.

(b) "Significant relationship" means a relationship as defined by section 609.341, subdivision 15.

(c) "Child" means a person under the age of 18 who is the alleged victim of child abuse perpetrated by an adult who has a significant relationship with the child victim.

[For text of subs 2 to 6, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 259 art 3 s 22

626.841 BOARD; MEMBERS.

The board of peace officer standards and training shall be composed of the following 15 members:

(a) Two members to be appointed by the governor from among the county sheriffs in Minnesota;

(b) Four members to be appointed by the governor from among peace officers in Minnesota municipalities, at least two of whom shall be chiefs of police;

(c) Two members to be appointed by the governor from among peace officers, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Minnesota state patrol association;

(d) The superintendent of the Minnesota bureau of criminal apprehension or a designee;

(e) Two members appointed by the governor from among peace officers, or former peace officers, who are currently employed on a full-time basis in a professional peace officer education program;

(f) Two members to be appointed by the governor, one member to be appointed from among administrators of Minnesota colleges or universities that offer professional peace officer education, and one member to be appointed from among the elected city officials in statutory or home rule charter cities of under 5,000 population outside the metropolitan area, as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2;

(g) Two members appointed by the governor from among the general public.

A chair shall be appointed by the governor from among the members. In making appointments the governor shall strive to achieve representation from among the geographic areas of the state.

History: 1995 c 226 art 4 s 24

626.843 RULES, STANDARDS; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Subdivision 1. **Rules required.** The board shall adopt rules with respect to:

(a) The certification of peace officer training schools, programs, or courses including training schools for the Minnesota state patrol. Such schools, programs and courses shall include those administered by the state, county, school district, municipality, or joint or contractual combinations thereof, and shall include preparatory instruction in law enforcement and minimum basic training courses;

(b) Minimum courses of study, attendance requirements, and equipment and facilities to be required at each certified peace officers training school located within the state;

(c) Minimum qualifications for instructors at certified peace officer training schools located within this state;

(d) Minimum standards of physical, mental, and educational fitness which shall govern the recruitment and licensing of peace officers within the state, by any state, county, municipality, or joint or contractual combination thereof, including members of the Minnesota state patrol;

(e) Minimum standards of conduct which would affect the individual's performance of duties as a peace officer;

These standards shall be established and published. The board shall review the minimum standards of conduct described in this paragraph for possible modification in 1998 and every three years after that time.

(f) Minimum basic training which peace officers appointed to temporary or probationary terms shall complete before being eligible for permanent appointment, and the time within which such basic training must be completed following any such appointment to a temporary or probationary term;

(g) Minimum specialized training which part-time peace officers shall complete in order to be eligible for continued employment as a part-time peace officer or permanent employment as a peace officer, and the time within which the specialized training must be completed;

(h) Content of minimum basic training courses required of graduates of certified law enforcement training schools or programs. Such courses shall not duplicate the content of certified academic or general background courses completed by a student but shall concentrate on practical skills deemed essential for a peace officer. Successful completion of such a course shall be deemed satisfaction of the minimum basic training requirement;

(i) Grading, reporting, attendance and other records, and certificates of attendance or accomplishment;

(j) The procedures to be followed by a part-time peace officer for notifying the board of intent to pursue the specialized training for part-time peace officers who desire to become peace officers pursuant to clause (g), and section 626.845, subdivision 1, clause (g);

(k) The establishment and use by any political subdivision or state law enforcement agency which employs persons licensed by the board of procedures for investigation and resolution of allegations of misconduct by persons licensed by the board. The procedures shall be in writing and shall be established on or before October 1, 1984;

(l) The issues that must be considered by each political subdivision and state law enforcement agency that employs persons licensed by the board in establishing procedures under section 626.5532 to govern the conduct of peace officers who are in pursuit of a vehicle being operated in violation of section 609.487, and requirements for the training of peace officers in conducting pursuits. The adoption of specific procedures and requirements is within the authority of the political subdivision or agency;

(m) Supervision of part-time peace officers and requirements for documentation of hours worked by a part-time peace officer who is on active duty. These rules shall be adopted by December 31, 1993; and

(n) Such other matters as may be necessary consistent with sections 626.84 to 626.855. Rules promulgated by the attorney general with respect to these matters may be continued in force by resolution of the board if the board finds the rules to be consistent with sections 626.84 to 626.855.

[For text of subs 2 to 4, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 226 art 4 s 25

626.8431 AUTOMATIC LICENSE REVOCATION.

The license of a peace officer convicted of a felony is automatically revoked. For purposes of this section, "conviction" includes a finding of guilt, whether or not the adjudication of guilt is stayed or executed, an admission of guilt, or a no contest plea.

History: 1995 c 226 art 4 s 26

626.851 ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICERS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. Any student successfully completing a program of law enforcement instruction in a post secondary educational institution, which program has been certified by the board, and which institution has been approved by the Minnesota state department of children, families, and learning or an accredited institution of higher learning shall be eligible to attend a skills oriented basic training course as established under section 626.843. Nothing contained in sections 626.84 to 626.855 shall be construed to preclude the provision of skills oriented basic training courses by certified law enforcement schools providing such course has been certified by the board.

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13

626.8555 PEACE OFFICER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Metropolitan State University and Minneapolis Community College, in consultation with the board of peace officer standards and training and state and local law enforcement agencies in the seven-county metropolitan area, shall provide core law enforcement courses in an accelerated time period. The schools shall grant priority admission to students who have a bona fide offer of employment from a Minnesota law enforcement agency. These courses shall be available at the beginning of the 1995-1996 academic year and are contingent on sufficient program enrollment.

The board, Metropolitan State University, and Minneapolis Community College shall evaluate the accelerated law enforcement education program and report their findings to the 1997 legislature.

History: 1995 c 226 art 4 s 27

626.861 LEVY AND COLLECTION OF PENALTY ASSESSMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Levy of assessment.** There is levied a penalty assessment of 15 percent on each fine imposed and collected by the courts of this state for traffic offenses in violation of chapters 168 to 173 or equivalent local ordinances, other than a fine or forfeiture for a violation of a local ordinance or other law relating to the parking of a vehicle. In cases where the defendant is convicted but a fine is not imposed, or execution of the fine is stayed, the court shall impose a penalty assessment of not less than \$5 nor more than \$10 when the conviction is for a petty misdemeanor, and shall impose a penalty assessment of not less than \$25 but not more than \$50 when the conviction is for a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony. Where multiple offenses are involved, the penalty assessment shall be assessed separately on each offense for which the defendant is sentenced. If imposition or execution of sentence is stayed for all of the multiple offenses, the penalty assessment shall be based upon the most serious offense of which the defendant was convicted. Where the court suspends a portion of a fine, the suspended portion shall not be counted in determining the amount of the penalty assessment unless the offender is ordered to pay the suspended portion of the fine. Suspension of an entire fine shall be treated as a stay of execution for purposes of computing the amount of the penalty assessment.

[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 4. **Peace officers training account.** Receipts from penalty assessments must be credited to a peace officers training account in the special revenue fund.

History: 1995 c 226 art 1 s 21; art 2 s 34