



ELDER AND DEPENDENT ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

California Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 15659 requires LITA of Marin to provide all volunteers information concerning their responsibility to report incidents of observed, known, or suspected elder and dependent abuse. All volunteers must sign a statement acknowledging receipt and understanding of the mandatory elder and dependent reporting requirements. LITA must retain the signed statement.

Elders are persons 65 years of age or older. Dependent adults are persons between the ages of 18 and 64 with physical or mental limitations such as physical or developmental disabilities or age-diminished physical or mental abilities. The law also expressly includes any person between the ages of 18 and 64 who is admitted as an inpatient to an acute care hospital or other 24-hour health facility as a dependent adult. (W&I Code 15610.23, 15610.27, and 15701.2)

Abuse of an elder or dependent adult means either of the following:

- (a) Physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering; or
- (b) The deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that is necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering. (W&I Code 15610.07)

If you observe or have knowledge of elder and/or dependent abuse, or reasonably suspect such abuse, please report it as soon as practically possible as follows:

- (a) If immediate attention is needed, report to the Activity Director, RN in charge or another facility staff.
- (b) If you have heard of, witnessed or suspect that abuse may be occurring, please call LITA staff immediately.