

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613-7040

MEDDAC Memorandum
No. 608-1

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Personal Affairs
MANAGEMENT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

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1. HISTORY: This issue publishes a revision of this publication.
2. PURPOSE. To provide guidance to Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center (RWBAHC) staff regarding the medical, legal, and psychosocial management of patients who are the victims of family violence.
3. SCOPE. This memorandum applies to all Staff, Clinics, Services, and Sections within the RWBAHC. Additionally, it applies to patients in the five age categories to include infant, child, adolescent, adult, and seniors.
4. REFERENCES.
 - a. DoD Family Advocacy Program Standards.
 - b. AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program.
 - c. MEDCOM Pam 608-1, Family Advocacy Program.
5. GENERAL. The objectives of the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) are:
 - a. To prevent family violence in all five age categories to include infant, child, adolescent, adult, and seniors.
 - b. To encourage the reporting of family violence.
 - c. To ensure the prompt investigation of family violence cases.
 - d. To protect victims of family violence.

*This Memorandum supersedes MEDDAC Memo 608-1, 3 Nov 98.

e. To provide treatment programs for individuals affected by or involved in family violence so those families might be restored to a healthy state.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The RWBAHC Commander will:

(1) Ensure a physician or other health care provider examines all victims of family violence as soon as possible after the initial report of abuse is made during normal duty hours.

(2) Direct health care providers and other staff conducting medical examinations of child victims of abuse or neglect to use the MEDCOM Protocol for Child Abuse/Neglect (PCAN).

(3) Direct health care providers and other staff conducting medical examinations of spouse victims of abuse to use the MEDCOM Protocol for Spouse Abuse (SAP).

(4) Provide a system for 24 hour reporting and emergent medical services to victims of abuse or neglect. All suspected cases of family violence to include instances of maltreatment, child or spouse abuse or neglect, elder abuse or neglect must be reported to the Fort Huachuca reporting point of contact (RPOC), which is the Military Police (533-2181). This number is staffed 24 hours. A call roster of the Family Advocacy staff member on-call is maintained by the Prime Time Clinic (533-9042); Sierra Vista Community Hospital Emergency Room (417-3060); and the Military Police.

(5) The Cochise County Child Protective Services must be contacted in all incidents involving child abuse or neglect. A call must be placed to their central office 1-888-767-2445.

(6) The Cochise County Adult Protective Services (459-1859) may be contacted for all incidents involving abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

(7) Promote and make available training to RWBAHC staff on the identification, reporting, management, and treatment of family violence victims.

b. RWBAHC Department/Service Chief's will arrange for education and training of their staff on the identification, reporting, management, and treatment of abuse victims.

c. RWBAHC Staff will:

(1) Report all cases, as mandated by Arizona law, of alleged child abuse or neglect IAW para 6a(4), above.

(2) Report all cases, as mandated by Arizona law, of alleged adult abuse or neglect IAW para 6a(6), above.

(3) Document all observations, statements, and perceptions related to an allegation of family violence. These findings will be provided to the persons involved in the official investigation or evaluation of the report.

(4) Cooperate, with all individuals or agencies conducting official investigations, assessments, and treatment to individuals involved in cases of family violence.

(5) Participate in training regarding the dynamics of family violence, reporting requirements, medical assessment practices, and their overall responsibilities towards the protection of victims.

d. Chief, Prime Time Clinic will:

(1) Ensure staff are aware of and comply with the reporting, medical examination, and documentation requirements.

(2) Provide the appropriate level of medical care in cases of family violence, and consult the required staff.

(3) Ensure all cases of family violence are reported to the RPOC before the victim, and others who may be involved in the investigation, leave the Prime Time Clinic.

(4) Provide and assist in the proper collection of medical and legal evidence to include statements, photographs, X-rays, drawings, lab samples, medical documentation, clothing, or other items appropriate for collection at the time of examination. Subject to availability of trained personnel.

(5) Educate the Prime Time Clinic staff on the appropriate actions to ensure the safety of victims.

(6) Take Medical Protective Custody of child victim of abuse or neglect. This can best be accomplished by contacting the installation RPOC and the Family Advocacy staff member on call.

e. Pediatrics will:

(1) Provide clinical support and consultation regarding medical examination procedures of child victims of abuse or neglect.

(2) Ensure the proper use of PCAN by RWBAHC staff involved in the evaluation of child abuse or neglect.

(3) Provide for the appropriate medical examination and timely response to cases of alleged abuse or neglect.

f. Chief, Social Work Service will:

(1) Coordinate actions relating to the identification, assessment, and treatment of family violence.

(2) Provide for emergent and routine consultation regarding the investigation, assessment, medical evaluation, and reporting of family violence.

(3) Assist with and provide training to staff about the Family Advocacy Program and the RWBAHC's responsibilities to the program.

(4) Ensure all cases of abuse or neglect are reported to the installation Family Advocacy Case Review Committee.

The proponent of this publication is Social Work Service. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 directly to Commander, RWBAHC, ATTN: MCXJ-SW, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7040.

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