



Family violence is a social and healthcare issue

Family violence exists in every city, every neighborhood, and every community. It is often a silent cycle of physical, emotional, verbal, and financial abuse that leaves its victims feeling trapped and helpless. Because 65 percent of all physical child abuse and 75 percent of all physical domestic violence results in injuries to the head, neck, and/or mouth, the dental professional is often the first person to render treatment to abuse victims as well as being their first line of defense. The dental community can make a difference.

To encourage and support dental professionals in a practical response to family violence, the California Dental Association Foundation, Blue Shield of California and its Foundation, and Dental Benefit Providers have joined forces to create Dental Professionals Against Violence. Our training programs and print materials are designed to assist dental professionals and their teams to recognize and respond to child abuse/neglect, domestic/intimate partner violence, and elder abuse/neglect. The services of Dental Professionals Against Violence are available to dentists and their teams as well as dental societies at little or no cost.

The goal of Dental Professionals Against Violence is to raise the dental community's awareness of family violence using the most current information regarding patient risk assessment, clinical signs and symptoms, and dental professional's legal obligation to identify and report family violence situations. Dentists, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental assistants are mandated reporters in the state of California. The program includes definitive action steps for dental professionals to use in their practices and communities.

The dental community can make a difference. Family violence is not just a social issue, it is a health issue that affects us all.

To learn more about what your organization can do to respond to family violence, call Dental Professionals Against Violence at (916) 554-4921 or (800) 736-7071, ext. 4921 in California.

Dental Professionals Against Violence thanks the P.A.N.D.A. and California Dental Association Abuse Detection and Education programs for their efforts in preventing family violence and for providing key elements to this enhanced training program.



RADAR

FOR DENTAL PROFESSIONALS/MANDATED REPORTERS

R = RECOGNIZE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE/NEGLECT, ROUTINELY SCREEN

A = ASK DIRECT, NON-JUDGMENTAL QUESTIONS WITH COMPASSION

D = DOCUMENT YOUR FINDINGS

A = ASSESS PATIENT SAFETY

R = REVIEW, REFER, REPORT

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Do you know
how to *respond*?

To file a mandated report of abuse/neglect or to obtain additional information, contact the following resource centers. If you suspect a life-threatening situation, call 911.

Child Abuse/Neglect:

To report: County Child Protective Services

Information: Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline – (800) 422-4453
<http://www.childhelpusa.org/>

Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence:

To report (physical assault only): Local law enforcement

Information: The National Domestic Violence Hotline – (800) 799-7233
<http://www.ndvh.org>

Elder Abuse/Neglect:

To report: County Adult Protective Services

Information: California Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse/Neglect Hotline – (888) 436-3600
<http://www.aging.ca.gov>

Information on all forms of family violence:

Crime and Violence Prevention Center, California Attorney General’s Office
(916) 324-7863
<http://www.safestate.org>

For more information about Dental Professionals Against Violence call:
(800) 736-7071, ext. 4921.



Blue Shield of California Foundation
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Shield Association



Dental Benefit
Providers

