

CALIFORNIA CODES
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
SECTION 15650

15650. (a) Investigation of reports of known or suspected instances of abuse in long-term care facilities shall be the responsibility of the long-term care ombudsman program, for instances of physical and financial abuse, the local law enforcement agency, and for instances of potential criminal neglect in a long-term health care facility, the long-term care ombudsman program and the bureau.

(b) Investigations of known or suspected instances of abuse outside of long-term care facilities shall be the responsibility of the county adult protective services agency and the local law enforcement agency unless another public agency is given responsibility for investigation in that jurisdiction.

(c) The investigative responsibilities set forth in this section are in addition to, and not in derogation of or substitution for, the investigative and regulatory responsibilities of licensing agencies, such as the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and the State Department of Health Services Licensing and Certification Division and their authorized representatives.

(d) Other public agencies involved in the investigation of abuse or advocacy of respective client populations, or both, include, but shall not be limited to, the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Developmental Services. Other public agencies shall conduct or assist in, or both, the investigation of reports of abuse of elder and dependent adults within their jurisdiction in conjunction with county adult protective services, local ombudsman programs and local law enforcement agencies.

(e) Each county adult protective services agency shall maintain an inventory of all public and private service agencies available to assist victims of abuse, as defined by Section 15610.07. This inventory shall be used to refer victims in the event that the county adult protective services agency cannot resolve the immediate needs of the victim, and to serve the victim on a long-term, followup basis. The intent of this section is to acknowledge that limited funds are available to resolve all suspected cases of abuse reported to a county adult protective services agency.

(f) Each local ombudsman program shall maintain an inventory of all public and private agencies available to assist long-term care residents who are victims of abuse, as defined by Section 15610.07. This inventory shall be used to refer cases of abuse in the event that another agency has jurisdiction over the resident, the abuse is verified and further investigation is needed by a law enforcement or licensing agency, or the program does not have sufficient resources to provide immediate assistance. The intent of this section is to acknowledge that ombudsman responsibility in abuse cases is to receive reports, determine the validity of reports, refer verified abuse cases to appropriate agencies for further action as necessary, and follow up to complete the required report information. Other ombudsman services shall be provided to the resident, as appropriate.

