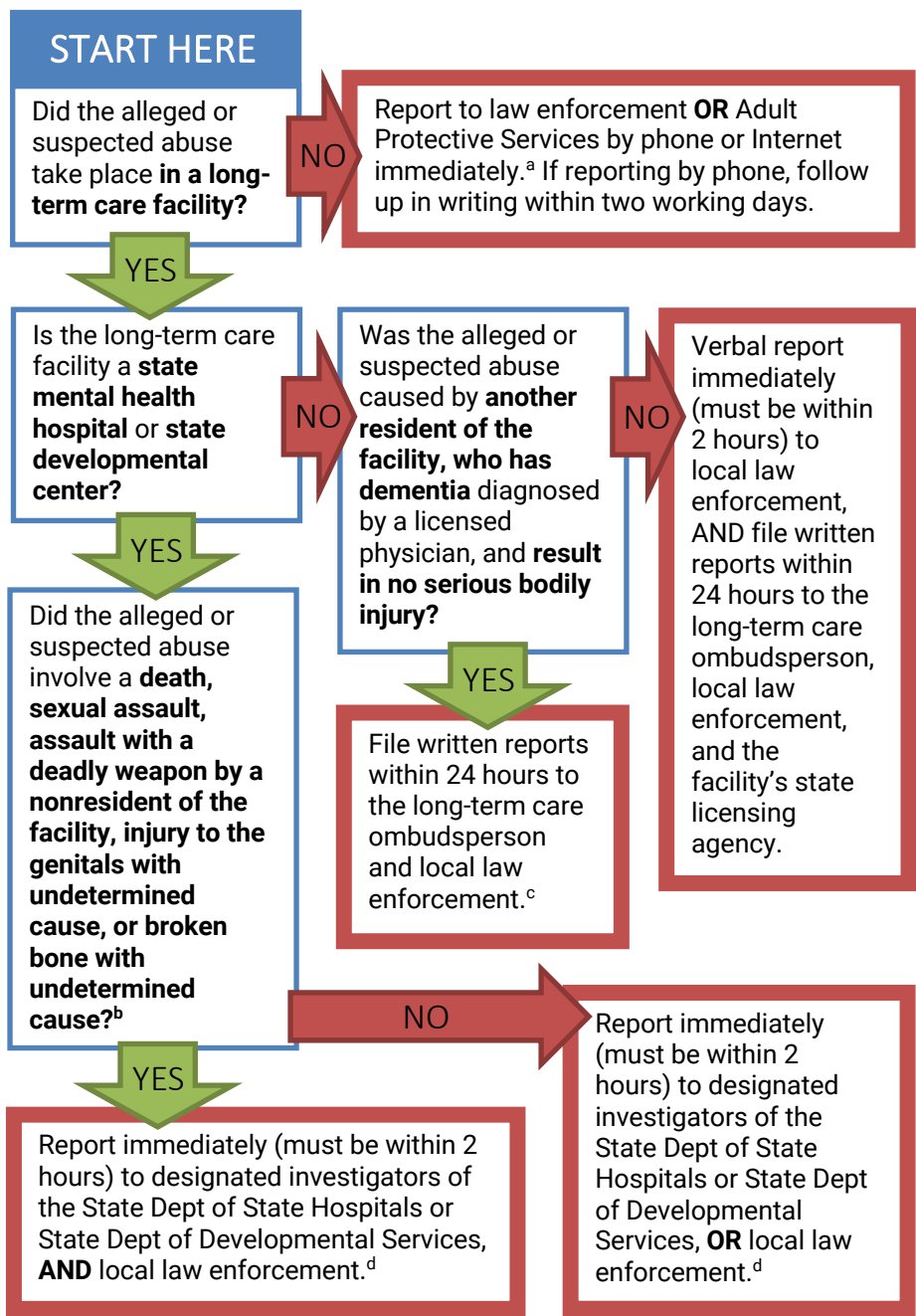


# 2024 Decision Tree for Reporting Suspected Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse

On January 1, 2024, the rules for reporting suspected elder and dependent adult abuse in California are changing. This flowchart, from *Basics of California Law for LMFTs, LPCCs, and LCSWs (11<sup>th</sup> ed)*, aims to assist clinicians with the decision-making process by summarizing the plain language of the new law.



**Please see the definitions, clarifications, and links on the next page.**

**Disclaimer**

This serves as a summary of the plain language of Assembly Bill 1417 (2023), and **is not intended as legal advice.** For legal guidance specific to your unique circumstances, please contact an attorney through your liability insurer or professional association.

## ***Definitions and clarifications***

**a** – Unless otherwise specified, “immediately” means “immediately or as soon as practicably possible.”

**b** – “Undetermined cause,” as it is used here, appears to be an effort to exclude injuries that are known to be due to other sources outside of the suspected abuse. When a reporter believes that these injuries were likely caused by the suspected abuse, this section would still be triggered.

**c** – The law does not specify whether these reports are to be verbal or written. In the absence of clearer guidance, it may make sense to make an immediate verbal report, and to be prepared to follow up with written reports.

**d** – The law does not clarify whether these written reports take the place of the immediate phone or internet-based reporting generally required in instances of known or suspected abuse. As such, an immediate phone report is likely still appropriate.

“**Serious bodily injury**” = “an injury involving extreme physical pain, substantial risk of death, or protracted loss or impairment of function of a bodily member, organ, or of mental faculty, or requiring medical intervention, including, but not limited to, hospitalization, surgery, or physical rehabilitation” (WIC 15610.67).

## ***Reporting form for suspected elder or dependent adult abuse***

[www.cdss.ca.gov/portals/g/fmuforms/q-t/soc341.pdf](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/portals/g/fmuforms/q-t/soc341.pdf)

## ***Find your local ombudsperson***

[www.aging.ca.gov/programs/LTCOP/Contacts/](http://www.aging.ca.gov/programs/LTCOP/Contacts/)

## ***About High Pass Education***

**High Pass Education (formerly Ben Caldwell Labs) offers low-cost resources for California therapists advancing their careers.** In addition to publishing Basics of California Law for LMFTs, LPCCs, and LCSWs, High Pass Education offers exam prep courses for the following exams:

- California LMFT Law & Ethics Exam
- California LCSW Law & Ethics Exam
- California LPCC Law & Ethics Exam
- California LMFT Clinical Exam

High Pass Education also offers continuing education courses, including courses to meet the new BBS requirements for 3 hours of Law & Ethics CE for each associate registration renewal, and 3 hours of Telehealth CE for associates and licensees.

[www.highpass.com](http://www.highpass.com)