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## POLICY

The Poverello Center, Inc. follows all applicable laws and best practices for addressing abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and vulnerable adults.

## PROCEDURE

I. Regarding **Children**: The Poverello Center, Inc. shall comply with state laws that require "any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare shall immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline of the Department of Children and Families." FS Chapter 39

a. Reporting to the Florida Abuse Hotline may be accomplished in several ways, but the Department will only accept reports that meet the following criteria:

The Florida Abuse Hotline will accept a report on a child when: There is reasonable cause to suspect that a child (an unmarried person who is born, under the age of 18 and who has not been emancipated by order of the court); \* the child is a Florida resident, and is in Florida, or is temporarily out of state but expected to return; \* has been harmed or is believed to be threatened with harm as defined by statute; \* by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare. OR: The Florida Abuse Hotline will accept a report on a child when: is not a Florida resident but can be located in Florida and has been harmed in Florida or is believed to be threatened with harm in Florida as defined by statute; by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

b. The four ways to make a report include

i. Telephone: 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

ii. Fax: 1-800-914-0004

iii. TDD: 1-800-453-5145

iv. Web: <http://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>

For more information:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0000-0099/0039/0039ContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2012&Title=%2D%3E2012%2D%3EChapter%2039](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0000-0099/0039/0039ContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2012&Title=%2D%3E2012%2D%3EChapter%2039)

**II. Regarding Vulnerable Adults:** The Poverello Center, Inc. shall comply with state laws that require reporting

a. Reporting to the Florida Abuse Hotline may be accomplished in several ways, but the Department will only accept reports that meet the following criteria:

There is reasonable cause to suspect that a vulnerable adult (*a person 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired due to disability, brain damage, or the infirmities of aging*); is a resident of Florida or currently located in Florida; is believed to have been neglected or abused by a caregiver in Florida; or is suffering from the ill effects of neglect by self and is in need of service, or is being exploited by any person who stands in a position of trust or confidence, or any person who knows or should know that a vulnerable adult lacks capacity to consent and who obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use their funds, assets or property.

b. The four ways to make a report include

i. Telephone: 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

ii. Fax: 1-800-914-0004

iii. TDD: 1-800-453-5145

iv. Web: <http://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>

For More Information:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0415/0415ContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2012&Title=%2D%3E2012%2D%3EChapter%20415](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0415/0415ContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2012&Title=%2D%3E2012%2D%3EChapter%20415)

Approvals:

Signature:  Date:   
Thomas S. Pietrogallo, MSW/LCSW, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer

BOD Approved Date: 01.25.17

Date Established: 12.21.2016

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