**2.3 Child and Elder Abuse Reporting Policy**

**Purpose:** To describe the process for identifying, investigating, and reporting suspected victims of Domestic Abuse, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Elder Abuse and Neglect.

**Policy:** Company leaders are cognizant of the increasing occurrence of domestic violence, abuse and neglect in America today. Realizing that victims of alleged or suspected domestic violence, abuse or neglect may be admitted to the service of this Company and that appropriate services cannot be provided by the Company unless these victims are identified and assessed, this organization will:

* Define terms used in this policy as follows:

Domestic: household or family related

Violence: implies use of great force, intense vehemence, physical force exerted for the purpose of violating, damaging or abusing people or things

Abuse: generally carries with it a sense of harm and takes the form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological and emotional injury. It is generally repetitive and escalating.

Neglect: failure to care for or do, to disregard or pay no attention to. Neglect can be passive (unintentional failure to administer care or to give attention) or active (intentional failure to fulfill a care-taking obligation; to inflict physical or emotional stress or injury)

* Educate staff about domestic violence, abuse and neglect issues.
* Educate staff about appropriately identifying and assessing alleged or suspected victims.
* Educate staff about appropriate intervention in response to the identified abuse and neglect findings.
* Educate the staff to issues related to violence, abuse and neglect.
* Use the current state laws and regulations regarding abuse, neglect and domestic violence issues as the Company's guide for reporting and intervention processes.
* Establish and maintain a list of referral sources that includes private and public community agencies that provide for, or arrange for, assessment and care of victims of suspected or alleged abuse and establish a referral network with these and other appropriate resources.
* Educate all staff regarding the referral process with these resources, including the referral criteria and implementation of the referral process to the appropriate resources within the network.
* Educate staff to appropriate documentation of assessment and care.
* Establish screening guidelines for identification of this Company's "at risk" population and educate the staff to recognize this company's at risk population.

**Related Policy:**

1. Reportable events