

# SPECIAL INCIDENT REPORTING

## Strengthening Oversight & Safety

February 2026



Photo by [Chona Kasinger](#),  
from [Disabled and Here](#)

# HOUSEKEEPING



ASL interpreters have been “Spotlighted” and Zoom's live closed captioning is active



This meeting is being recorded

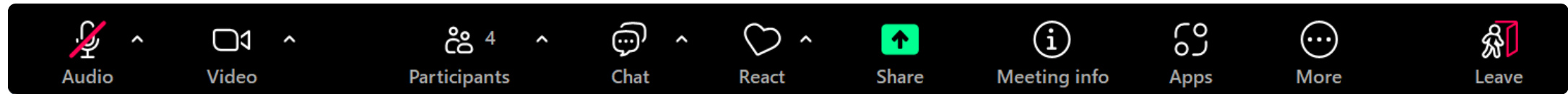


Materials will be made available online at: [Risk Management & Mitigation : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)



Submit written comment via email to: [orm@dds.ca.gov](mailto:orm@dds.ca.gov)

# ZOOM TIPS



Unmute mic only when it's your turn to speak



Participants will not be on camera



Chat will be not be available, so please use the Q&A



Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting



- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants

# AGENDA

- Overview of Regulatory Changes
  - Key Changes and Clarifications
- Introduce SIR Resources
  - [RC SIR Reporting Guidelines](#)
  - [Vendor SIR Reporting Guidelines](#)
  - SIR informational/training videos
  - Upcoming training sessions
- Questions/feedback



# SIR REGULATION – Background

- **Ultimately, improve services for individuals served**
- **Updates to Title 17 SIR reporting regulations**
  - Approved: June 11, 2025
  - Effective: May 1, 2026
- **Responsive to changes in the service needs of individuals served**
  - Last regulation revisions (over 25 years ago)
  - New risks
  - Modernization of service delivery
- **Comply with new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) requirements**
  - Alignment with Access Final Rule
  - Final Rule Requirement for Incident Management System
- **Responsive to Office of Inspector General Audit (2021)**



# Reminder: two general categories of incidents

## Two general categories of reportable incidents:

- Things that happen to anyone served by a regional center *regardless of when or where the incident occurred*:
  1. Any death
  2. Any time an individual is the victim of *any* crime
- **NEW:** When a mandated abuse or neglect report is filed with APS, CPS, long term care ombudsman, or law enforcement
- Things that happen to someone “under vendored care”
  - More on that in the coming slides.



# Key Clarifications – Under Vendored Care

- **When is an Individual is Considered to Be “Under Vendored Care”?**
  - Vendor is providing services and supports at the time of an incident
  - Vendor is listed in the IPP as responsible for services and supports at the time of an incident
  - Vendor provides services and supports 24/7
  - Vendor is required to provide 24/7 services under California Code of Regulations
- **Service providers that provide 24 hours, 7 days a week services**
  - Long term health care facilities
  - Supported Living Services
  - Family Home Agencies
  - Financial Management Services



# Key Changes

## 1. Key Terms are Defined

- Check Title 17 or the Guidelines for definitions
- Ensures consistency in reporting across the state

## 2. When the victim of *any crime (not just those listed)*

### **New crimes added:**

- *Simple assault*
- *Battery*
- *Fraud*
- *Identity or credit theft*
- *Attempted or actual homicide or manslaughter*
- *Human Trafficking*
- *Stalking*
- *Hate Crime*
- *Other (in SANDIS)*



# Key Changes – Reporting Categories

## Any Reasonably Suspected Abuse

### **New categories added**

- **Financial (instead of Fiduciary)**
- **Exploitation**
- **Verbal**
- **Isolation [and seclusion]**
- **Restraint Use**
  - Restraint techniques inconsistent with program's approved plan, restraint training curriculum or restraint policy;
  - Physical, mechanical, or chemical restraint used when behavior does not pose imminent risk of harm;
  - *When restraint is part of an individual's IPP, restraint not approved in the individual's plan; or*
  - Chemical or mechanical restraint inconsistent with physician's order
- **Any incident reported to protective agencies under: (not limited to under vendored care)**
  - Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting Act
  - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act
- **Other** (in SANDIS)



# Key Changes – Reporting Categories cont.

## Any Reasonably Suspected Neglect

### ***New categories added:***

#### **Failure to:**

- Provide medical or dental care for physical and mental health needs
  - Including **failing to administer required health care interventions**
- Protect from health and safety hazards
  - Including **failing to prevent two or more falls within 30 days**
- Assist with personal hygiene
  - Including **failure to assist with toileting, incontinence needs, and provision of fluids**
- **Abandonment**
- **Any incident reported to protective agencies under: (not limited to under vendored care)**
  - Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting Act
  - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act
- **Other** (in SANDIS)



# Key Clarifications – Reporting Categories

**Any Serious Injury/Accident** but not limited to: *[New categories added]*

- Lacerations requiring sutures, staples, **wound adhesive, or other closure beyond first aid**
- **Injury from a seizure requiring medical treatment beyond first aid\***
- **Bruising\*\***, contusions, or hematomas:
  - To the head, eyes, or neck (*regardless of size*)
  - To the breasts, genitals, or rectal/anal area (*regardless of size*)
  - 2 inches or greater in size
- **Injury from aggressive contact requiring medical treatment beyond first aid**
- **Any head injury, including concussion, requiring medical attention\*\*\***
- **Pressure injuries stage 2 or greater, or unstageable**
- **Other** (in SANDIS)

\* **“Medical Treatment Beyond First Aid”** means when an individual served receives treatment by a trained medical professional beyond the one-time, short-term treatment administered immediately after the injury occurs and at the location where it occurred.” Title 17, Section 54327(a)(20)

\*\* **“Internal Bleeding”** distinguished from bruising. Title 17, Section 54327(a)(15)

\*\*\* **“Medical Attention”** means when an individual served is assessed and/or under the observation of a trained medical professional. Title 17, Section 54327(a)(19)



# Key Changes – New Categories

- **Emergency Room Visits**
  - Any stay in a hospital emergency room five (5) days or more
- **Unplanned or Unscheduled Hospitalizations\*** *[New categories added]*
  - ***Bowel Obstruction***

An SIR is required when the vendor *learns* that the hospitalization is related to a reportable condition. *Do not wait* for a discharge diagnosis or confirming medical documentation.

\* **“Hospitalization”** means when an individual has been admitted to a hospital for an inpatient stay, regardless of the duration. Title 17, Section 54327(a)(11)



# Who is exempt from reporting?

1. **Parent Vendors**
  2. **Individuals served who are vendored**
  3. **Participant directed service providers**
    - Because not vendored by a regional center
- Financial Management Service (FMS) providers are required to report because they are vendored by a regional center
  - Vendors must report incidents that likely occurred while under vendored care, not just those that occurred while the individual was under *their* vendored care.
  - Regional centers must report to DDS incidents that they learn about, even if not reported yet by a vendor.



# TRAINING AND RESOURCES

[Regional Center SIR Reporting Guidelines](#)

[Vendor SIR Reporting Guidelines](#)

Frequently Asked Questions  
(Spring of 2026)

Regional Center and Vendor Trainings

Townhall for all community partners

[Training Videos](#)

# TRAINING AND RESOURCES cont.

## Special Incident Reporting (SIR) Regulation Training Opportunities for RC Staff In-Person Trainings

- The Risk Management Branch will host 4 in-person trainings throughout the state in February.
  - Target Audience are RC Risk Management Staff that work directly with SIRs daily
  - The in-person trainings will dig deeper into the new regulations and review specific sections of the [Regional Center Guidelines for Reporting of Special Incidents](#)
  - Get your questions answered by DDS' Risk Management team.
- Space is limited, please discuss with your supervisor if you feel you should attend.

### Northern California In-Person

Tuesday, February 10  
10:00 to 11:30 AM (ACRC)

Wednesday, February 11  
10:00 to 11:30 AM (CVRC-Fresno Office)

### Southern California In-Person

Thursday, February 12  
10:00 to 11:30 AM (SCLARC)

Tuesday, February 17  
10:00 to 11:30 AM (SGPRC)

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding materials or trainings, please email:

[orm@dds.ca.gov](mailto:orm@dds.ca.gov)



# OVERVIEW OF SIR REPORTING- REGIONAL CENTERS

