

SPECIAL INCIDENT REPORTING

Strengthening Oversight & Safety

APRIL 2026



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



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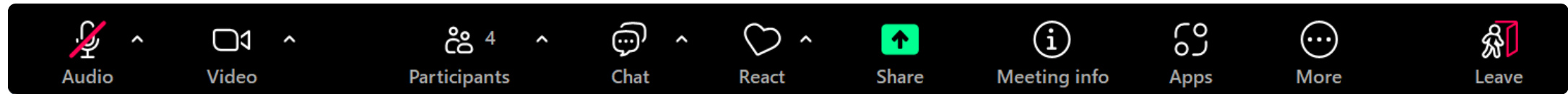


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AGENDA

- Overview of Regulatory Changes
 - Key Changes and Clarifications
- SIR Resources
 - [Regional Center Reporting Guidelines](#)
 - [Vendor SIR Reporting Guidelines](#)
 - [SIR informational/training videos](#)
 - Frequently Asked Questions (Spring 2026)
- Questions/feedback



What is a Special Incident Report?

- Special Incident Reports (SIRs) are reports of certain adverse events that unexpectedly happen to individuals served.
 - This reporting is required by California law.
 - SIRs are submitted by providers to inform the regional center and the Department of these unexpected events.
- SIR reporting is an essential risk mitigation tool to:
 - Provide immediate services and supports to the individual and
 - Identify potential service and support needs going forward.
- SIR data is also analyzed to improve the service delivery system more broadly.



Why are Special Incident Reports filed?

- Required by California Code of Regulation Title 17
 - Providers are required to report SIRs to the regional center within 24 hours after learning of the incident with a written report within 48 hours
 - Regional centers report to the department within two working day.
- These regulations have been updated and new reporting categories will be required starting May 1st.



Background

What happens after a report is made?

- The regional center:
 - Reviews what happened
 - Ensures immediate action is taken to address health and safety needs
- A plan may be put in place to support individuals served
- The regional center monitors for subsequent incidents to ensure the plan addressed the individual's service needs, if any.



SIR Reporting – Updates and Why It Matters?

- Making sure individuals served get the services and supports they need.
- Improving services for individuals served.
- Strengthening partnerships.
- Mitigating risk for individuals served and providers.
- Driving improvements in our service delivery system.



Reporting Requirements - Reminder

- Vendors are required to report to the regional center responsible for the individual's case management.
- *Initial report* to the regional center within **24 hours** after learning of the incident.
- *Written report* to the regional center within **48 hours** after learning of the incident.
- Regional centers must report to DDS incidents that they learn about, even if not reported yet by a vendor.



Reminder: Two General Categories of Incidents

Two general categories of reportable incidents:

1. Things that happen to **anyone served** by a regional center *regardless of when or where the incident occurred*.
 - These are called **universal** reporting requirements.
2. Things that happen to someone “**under vendored care**”
 - The individual was (or was supposed to be) getting services at the time of the incident.
 - All vendors must file a report when they learn of a special incident, even if another vendor was providing services at the time.



Universal Reporting Requirements

Things that happen to **anyone served** by a regional center *regardless of when or where the incident occurred*:

- Any death;
- Any time an individual is the victim of *any* crime;
- **NEW:** When a mandated abuse or neglect report is filed with Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, long term care ombudsman, or law enforcement.



Events Reported when Under Vendored Care

Additional incidents must be reported *if* the individual was under vendored care at the time:

- Missing Persons Report Filed
- Abuse or Neglect
- Serious Injury
- Certain Unplanned Hospitalizations
- Emergency Room Stays 5 Days or Longer

Vendors must report incidents that likely occurred while under any vendor's care, not just those occurring under their care.



What is Under Vendored Care?

- **When is an individual considered to be “under vendored care”?**
 - Vendor is providing services and supports at the time of an incident, or
 - Vendor is listed in the Individual Program Plan (IPP) as responsible for services and supports at the time of an incident, or
 - Vendor provides services and supports 24/7
- **Service providers that provide 24 hours, 7 days a week services**
 - Residential service providers
 - Long-term health care facilities
 - Supported Living Services
 - Family Home Agencies
 - Financial Management Services



Any Abuse and Neglect

	Reasonably Suspected Abuse	Reasonably Suspected Neglect
Current Categories	<p>ANY reasonably suspected abuse including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical • Sexual • Fiduciary • Emotional/Mental • Exploitation 	<p>ANY Reasonably Suspected neglect including failure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide medical care for physical or mental health needs • Prevent malnutrition or dehydration • Protect from health and safety hazards • Assist with hygiene or provide food, clothing, or shelter • Exercise care of a reasonable person
Newly Added and Updated Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial • Verbal • Isolation • Restraint use inconsistent with plan, policy, or physician order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to administer required health interventions • Negligent failure to prevent two or more falls in 30 days • Failure to assist with toileting or incontinency needs • Failure to provide fluids • Abandonment • Any incident reported to protective agencies

Victim of Any Crime

Victim of Crime	
Current Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robbery• Aggravated assault• Larceny• Burglary• Rape, including attempts to commit rape
New or Clarified Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple assault• Battery• Fraud• Identity or credit theft• Attempted or actual homicide or manslaughter• Human trafficking• Stalking• Hate crime

Serious Injury or Accident

Any Serious Injury or Accident

Current Categories

- Lacerations requiring sutures or staples
 - Puncture wounds *
 - Fractures
 - Dislocations
 - Bites that break skin *
 - Internal bleeding *
 - Any medication error
 - Medical reactions *
 - Burns *
- * *and* require medical treatment beyond first aid

New or Clarified Categories

- Also, lacerations requiring wound adhesive or other wound closure beyond first aid
- Injury from a seizure *
- Bruising, contusions, hematomas:
 - to head area, breasts, genital, rectal area or
 - 2" or larger anywhere else
- Injury from aggressive contact with another individual *
- Head injury requiring medical attention, including concussion
- Pressure injuries stage 2 or higher

Unplanned Hospitalizations & Emergency Room Visits

Unplanned Hospitalizations and Emergency Room Visits	
Current Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respiratory illness• Seizure-related• Cardiac related• Internal infections• Diabetes• Wound/skin care• Nutritional deficiencies• Involuntary psychiatric admission
New Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bowel Obstruction• Emergency room stays of 5 days or more



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.



What Happens When An SIR is Filed?

Immediate Actions Taken

- IPP team, vendor, and the regional center ensure individual is safe and healthy.
- The regional center reviews the incident and confirms safety needs.
- Follow-up occurs.
- Supports or corrective steps are put in place.



How SIR Data Is Used

- Regional centers analyze trends to understand patterns and emerging needs.
- DDS reviews statewide data to ensure consistency with Title 17.
- Data review helps identify areas needing additional support.



How SIR Data Improves the System

- Helps concentrate efforts on areas showing increased risks
- Highlights areas where additional training or technical assistance may be needed.
- Supports planning for quality improvements.
- Informs statewide risk-mitigation strategies and policy development.



Public Resources & Information

- [DDS – Special Incident Reporting & Risk Management.](#)
- [Title 17 Regulations.](#)
- [Regional Center resources available on local Regional Center websites.](#)
- [Training & Webinar information available on the DDS website.](#)



QUESTIONS?

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

orm@dds.ca.gov

