

Mandated Reporters

Under California law, specific professional groups are required to report known or suspected abuse of a child or dependent adult. Mandated reporters include, but are not limited to:

- Child care custodians (teachers, foster parents, child care providers, etc.).
- Health practitioners
- Law Enforcement officers
- Commercial film processors
- Clergy
- Animal Control officers
- Anyone who works with children

To make a report you must:

- Have a reasonable suspicion.
- Call law enforcement or the child abuse hotline.
- File a written report within 36 hours.

The child abuse hotline for Los Angeles County is **(800) 540-4000**.

Mandated reporters are required to report known or suspected abuse of a child or dependent adult. Mandated reporters who fail to report known or suspected abuse are in violation of the law and subject to misdemeanor charges. Supervisors or administrators may not obstruct or restrain reporting by a mandated reporter, nor may they take any actions against the reporter for making a report.

Community members may make an anonymous report of known or suspected abuse of a child or dependent adult to appropriate child and protective service agencies.

Northridge Hospital Medical Center is a 425-bed healthcare facility in the San Fernando Valley. As a nonprofit, community-based hospital, Northridge Hospital offers a full spectrum of healthcare programs and Centers of Excellence. Northridge Hospital is affiliated with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) and shares with them a long and rich legacy of caring and compassion.

The Center for Healthier Communities of Northridge Hospital Medical Center encompasses several community health programs and services that significantly benefit the quality of life for the diverse residents of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. The Center is dedicated to building community collaboratives, leveraging local resources and developing effective strategies that assist children, adults and families.

Available Resources

- For more information regarding CATS medical services, CATS outreach activities or any of the Center for Healthier Communities' programs, please call **(818) 908-8789**.
- See our self-guided online training for mandated reporters at **www.abuse-assaultservices.org**
- 24-hour sexual assault crisis counseling and referrals are available through Valley Trauma Center at **(818) 886-0453**.

 Northridge Hospital Medical Center
CHW
(818) 908-8789
www.NorthridgeHospital.org

Children's Assault Treatment Services



*Dedicated to the Treatment
of Children and Adults
Affected by Violence*



Northridge Hospital Medical Center

CHW

Children's Assault Treatment Services



Northridge Hospital Medical Center's Children's Assault Treatment Services (CATS) program is the only 24-hour / 7-day-per-week program in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys providing care to adult and child victims of physical and/or sexual assault and abuse.

CATS' mission is to provide compassionate, comprehensive care to adult and child victims of physical and sexual abuse in a supportive, comforting environment, through a coordinated collaborative effort.

CATS service components include:

- **Specialized forensic medical/legal examinations and forensic interviews** are provided for law enforcement, local district attorneys, and child protective agencies.
- **Case management** consists of an advocacy team that provides crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, and referrals to state and local agencies.
- **Community outreach** educates teachers, childcare providers, medical professionals and community members about the different types of abuse, indicators of abuse, the importance of reporting abuse, and the short and long-term consequences of failing to report abuse.

Clinical Service

The CATS clinical staff consists of a Medical Director, Nurses and Nurse Practitioners. All have advanced training as Sexual Assault Examiners and provide victims with comprehensive care. This includes evidence collection, assessment of injuries, laboratory testing, medication for acute assault victims, medical referrals, and follow-up examination as necessary. Examinations are performed at no cost to the victim.

Forensic interviews

are provided by clinical staff who have received advanced training in forensic interview techniques.



Translation services

are provided for individuals who speak a language other than English and for the hearing impaired.

ADVANTAGES OF CATS

- Comprehensive medical examinations to victims in a supportive, comforting environment.
- Coordination of services: Medical, Advocacy, Investigation
- Reduction of repetitive victim interviews through the use of specialized forensic interviews with audio and video recording capability.

Community Outreach

Statistically, one in four females and one in six males are sexually assaulted or abused before the age of 18.



Children who have suffered from chronic abuse experience psychological issues, which may adversely affect their sense of security and well-being.

Each year, CATS provides prevention education to individuals who work with children, including teachers, childcare providers, social workers, therapists, counselors, mediators, healthcare practitioners, and local community-based organizations.

CATS is dedicated to preventing abuse by:

- Increasing community awareness through educational forums
- Providing prevention education to professionals who work with children
- Encouraging reporting of any reasonable suspicion of child abuse
- Empowering individuals to come forth and disclose the abuse

See our self-guided on-line training for mandated child abuse reporters at www.abuse-assaultservices.org