

Domestic Violence Reports



Background

The State of Colorado has made a conscious effort to improve domestic violence reporting to protect victims of domestic violence. [House Bill \(HB\) 17-1322](#) creates an exception to mandatory domestic violence reporting required under current law, allowing a health care professional to choose not to report an incident under specified conditions.

HB 17-1322: Domestic Violence Reports by Medical Professionals

HB 17-1322 removes the mandatory obligation that a licensee (e.g., licensed physician, physician assistants, anesthesiologist assistant) must report a domestic violence event when treating injuries as a result of a suspected incident.

What You Need to Know

- A licensee may choose not to report domestic violence incident if:
 - The victim is an adult over the age of 18 and indicates preference of not reporting. In addition, the health care provider must inform the patient of advocacy programs and services available for assistance.
 - The injury is not deemed as a serious bodily injury.
- If a licensee does not report incident, it must be documented in the patient's medical record.

When a licensed clinician intends to report the domestic violence incident, he/she must inform the patient of their inclination to do so. Regardless of reporting, the licensee must advise the patient of services available including information regarding a victim's advocate or other available services.

Additional Resources

- HB 17-1322: [Final Bill](#) and [Fiscal Note](#)
- HB 17-1322 will take effect on Aug. 9, 2017

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