PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for reporting injuries to law enforcement officials which are not covered under state and federal laws.

POLICY: Injuries, other than reportable wounds, will be reported to law enforcement officials in compliance with the guidelines listed below. Verbal and/or written patient authorization will be documented in the medical record.

PROCEDURES: Reporting of Injuries Sustained in Automobile Accidents, Brawls, Fights, etc.
1. Each case must be assessed by the health care professional, and the patient should be asked if he or she would like to have the police notified.
2. Cooperation with law enforcement officials is encouraged. Patient confidentiality will not be compromised.
3. Verbal consent from the patient in the presence of an officer and medical staff is acceptable authorization to release information for the police reports. This must be documented in the patient’s medical record.