County of Orange Social Services Agency
Family Self-Sufficiency & Adult Services Division

Program/Area:	**Adult Services/In-Home Supportive Services**		
Title:	**Safe at Home**		
Number:	**1048**	**Status:**	Final
Effective Date:	**6/10/2026**	**Revision Date:**	N/A
Approved:	**Signature on file**		

PURPOSE

To provide In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) staff information regarding the Safe at Home Confidential Address Program regulations.

POLICY

Safe at Home is a confidential address program administered by the California Secretary of State's Office. The program provides a substitute mailing address to receive first class, certified, and registered mail on behalf of individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, child abduction, and elder or dependent adult abuse, as well as reproductive health care workers and public entity employees who fear for their safety.

Each certified Safe at Home participant is assigned a substitute Post Office (P.O.) Box address for use in place of their home, work, or school address. Once enrolled, the participant's actual address becomes confidential. All state and local agencies that maintain public records are required to accept the substitute address as the participant's legal address of record.

Eligibility for Safe at Home is determined by the Secretary of State's Office.

BOOKMARKS

- Background
- Definitions
- References

BACKGROUND

On July 1, 1999, the Secretary of State implemented the confidential Safe at Home Program to help survivors of domestic abuse remain safe once they have escaped an abusive situation.

DEFINITIONS

Child Abduction
When someone does not have a right to custody maliciously takes, entices away, keeps, withholds, or conceals any child with the intent to detain or conceal that child from a lawful custodian.

Domestic Violence
Abuse perpetrated against any of the following persons:

(1) A spouse or former spouse
(2) A cohabitant or former cohabitant
(3) A person with whom the respondent is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship
(4) A person with whom the respondent has had a child
(5) A child of a party
(6) Any other person who is a relative by blood or marriage within the second degree

Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse

(1) Physical abuse, neglect, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment resulting in physical harm or pain or mental suffering
(2) The deprivation by a care custodian of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering
(3) Financial abuse

Human Trafficking

Depriving or violating the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services.

Sexual Assault (also known as sexual battery)

Occurs when someone's intimate parts are touched or attempted to be touched, or when someone is forced to touch another person's intimate parts without consent and/or against that person's will. Situations that lack consent or are against someone's will, can include, but are not limited to:

- Ignoring verbal and/or nonverbal indicators of resistance.
- Situations in which the victim is unable to consent or refuse.
- Situations resulting from threats, fraud or coercion.

The inability to consent or refuse includes:

- When the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know that the other person is asleep, unconscious, or otherwise unaware that the sexual act is occurring.
- When the victim is incapable of consenting to the sexual act due to impairment by any drug, intoxicant, or other similar substance, and that condition is known or reasonably should be known by the perpetrator.
- The victim has a mental disorder, developmental or physical disability, and the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know the condition.

Stalking

Any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or willfully and maliciously harasses another person and makes a credible threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear for their safety, or the safety of their immediate family.

REFERENCES

- ACL 01-57
- ACL 23-109

- Family Code 6211
- PC 236.1
- PC 278
- PC 646.9
- Secretary of State Safe at Home Regulations
- Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 15610.0
