March 31, 2014

**Q:** Under various Sections of the Nursing Home Care Act and the corresponding Codes, the requirements state that the facility/staff should “immediately” report allegations of abuse and neglect as defined in Administrative Rule Section 300.3240 to the facility administrator, the resident’s representative and local law enforcement under the situations noted in Section 300.695(b). How does IDPH define “immediately”? Is there a specific timeframe?

**A:** IDPH, based on CMS guidance, defines “immediately” as *without delay*. There is *no* specific timeframe, e.g. within 24 hours. As soon as staff become aware of actual or potential abuse and neglect and the resident(s) is safe and secure, the facility should contact the individuals and agencies without delay.