

COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: ICE – In Case of Emergency for Cell Phones		Policy Number 622	
APPROVED: Administration: Steven L. Carroll, EMT-P		Date: December 1, 2008	
APPROVED: Medical Director: Angelo Salvucci, M.D.		Date: December 1, 2008	
Origination Date: May 11, 2006		Effective Date: December 1, 2008	
Date Revised: May 11, 2006			
Date Last Reviewed: September 11, 2014			
Next Review Date: September, 2017			

- I. PURPOSE: To inform EMS providers of the ICE (In Case of Emergency) program that is promoted for personal cell phones. This is described as a universally-recognized mechanism to provide prompt notification to a family member or other designated contact of an ill or injured patient, and perhaps obtain information about a patient’s medical history.
- II. AUTHORITY: Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.214 and 1798
- III. DEFINITIONS: “ICE” is an acronym for “In Case of Emergency”.
- IV. PROCEDURE: It may be practical for EMS Providers to briefly search for a cell phone or other identification when working with a patient that is unable to provide this information. These items could then be provided to law enforcement or transported with the patient to the hospital. EMS providers are not usually the ones who make emergency notifications to family members or other third parties. This is normally done by law enforcement, hospitals or others involved in the situation. Searching for cell phones or making notifications, whether to an ICE contact or other third party, should never delay patient assessment, treatment, or transport. Currently, there are no applicable federal laws that *require* an EMS provider to check a patient’s cell phone and attempt to make contact with the patient’s ICE designee. If the EMS Provider attempts to make a notification, they should only disclose personal health information about the patient that is directly relevant to their involvement with the patient’s health care. This notification should be documented on the approved Ventura County documentation system.