

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



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TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: April 25, 2025

California Assembly Bill 977

Effective January 1, 2025, the following amendments were made to Penal Code 241 and Penal Code 243 under Assembly Bill 977:

Under prior law, an assault or battery committed against a physician or nurse engaged in rendering emergency medical care outside a hospital, clinic, or other healthcare facility was punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, by a fine not exceeding \$2,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

AB 977 made an assault or battery committed against a physician, nurse, or other healthcare worker of a hospital engaged in providing services within the emergency department punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, by a fine not exceeding \$2,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment. The bill authorized health facilities that maintain and operate an emergency department to post a notice in the emergency department stating that an assault or battery against staff is a crime and may result in a criminal conviction, as provided.

Terms for medical personnel used in both sections:

- **“Emergency medical technician”** means a person who is either an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P (paramedic) and possesses a valid certificate or license under the standards of Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code.
- **“Nurse”** means a person who possesses a valid certificate or license under the standards of Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700) or 6.5 (commencing with Section 2840) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code or a nurse of a hospital engaged in providing services within the emergency department.
- **“Health care worker”** means a person who, in the course and scope of employment, performs duties directly associated with the care and treatment rendered by the hospital’s emergency department or the department’s security.

The following links can be used to access the affected California Penal Code sections:

- [California Penal Code 241](#)
- [California Penal Code 243](#)

Personnel investigating incidents described above should be familiar with these new law changes to ensure the appropriate charges are filed. All sworn personnel of the Deputy Sheriff, Detentions Deputy Sheriff, and Park Ranger ranks are required to review and acknowledge this training bulletin no later than **May 25, 2025**.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.