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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

January 17, 2020

AFL 20-06

TO: General Acute Care Hospitals (GACH)
Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (APH)
Special Hospitals (SH)
Hospice Facilities

SUBJECT: Senate Bill (SB) 322: Health Facilities: Inspections: Employee Reporting

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 1278.5

All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary

This AFL notifies GACHs, APHs, SHs and hospice facilities of the chaptering of SB 322 ([Chapter 72, Statutes 2019](#)) which specifically grants employees or their representatives the right to discuss privately any possible regulatory violations or patient safety concerns with an inspector during the course of an investigation or inspection by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Effective January 1, 2020, SB 322 specifies that employees or their representatives working in GACHs, APHs, SHs and hospice facilities have the right to discuss privately any possible regulatory violations or patient safety concerns with an inspector during the course of an investigation or inspection by CDPH.

CDPH's failure to expressly notify facilities of statutory or regulatory requirements does not relieve facilities of their responsibility for following all laws and regulations. Facilities should refer to the full text of all applicable sections of HSC and the California Code of Regulations to ensure compliance.

If you have any questions about this AFL, please contact your local [district office](#).

Sincerely,

Original signed by Heidi W. Steinecker

Heidi W. Steinecker
Deputy Director

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