

David Reaney & Associates Dental Practice

Practice policy on violence and aggression

1. This policy is intended to protect everyone who works at the practice from possible harm from violent or aggressive behaviour. It also helps to fulfil the practice's obligations to provide a safe place to work.
2. Our philosophy is that violence is unacceptable in whatever form it takes, for whatever reason.
3. It is the responsibility of every member of the practice to take reasonable care of the health and safety of him or herself and of other persons who might be affected by his or her acts and omissions at work.
4. This policy covers everyone who is engaged by the practice including self-employed contractors (for example associates), temporary and casual workers.
5. The operation of this policy is the responsibility of **Colm Marley Practice Manager**.
6. We define violence and aggression as:
 - actual or threatened physical assaults on staff
 - psychological abuse of staff
 - verbal abuse which includes shouting, swearing and gestures
 - threats against practice personnel which occur in the workplace.
7. The workplace is defined as the practice premises and all other premises where work is undertaken as part of the person's official duties. Travelling to and from the workplace other than practice premises is also included within the definition.
8. To comply with this policy we will:
 - undertake risk assessment
 - ensure that the practice premises are secure
 - provide regular training in dealing with difficult/aggressive patients
 - provide training in dealing with assaults
 - aim to operate an effective appointment system and make the reception area as relaxing as possible to minimise delays and tension
 - operate a protocol for dealing with out-of-hours emergencies
9. All incidents (however trivial) must be reported at once to **Colm Marley, Practice Manager** and a recording form completed. In the event of any actual or threatened violence, the police will be called. Injuries will be recorded in the accident book.
10. The practice will undertake to provide support, assistance and, if necessary, counselling to members of the practice who are victims of violence and aggression in the course of their work. In appropriate cases, a discretionary period of sick leave on full pay will be granted.
11. This policy will be reviewed and updated regularly.

Incident form

Date of incident..... Day of week..... Time.....

Member of staff.....

Male/Female Position.....

What activity was the member of staff engaged in at the time of the incident?

Details of assailant(s)

Name Witness(es)

Address Address

Age Age

M/F M/F

How long has the assailant been a patient at the practice?

What sort of treatment has he/she received in the past?

What happened?

Type of abuse: Injury? Physical? Anti-social behaviour?

Details:

Where did the incident occur?

Outcome (i.e. Police, de-registration, legal action)

What support has been offered to the victim? (eg: time off, counselling, legal support)

Other relevant information

Signed
Practice Manager

Signed
Member of staff