

Massachusetts Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	<p>Any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physicians; medical interns; hospital personnel engaged in the examination, care or treatment of persons; medical examiners; psychologists; emergency medical technicians; dentists; nurses; chiropractors; podiatrists; optometrists; osteopaths; • Public or private schoolteachers; educational administrators; guidance or family counselors; • Child care workers, including any person paid to care for, or work with, a child in any public or private facility, or home or program funded or licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which provides child care or residential services (including child care resource and referral agencies, as well as voucher management agencies, family child care and child care food programs); • Social workers; foster parents; probation officers; clerks/magistrates of the district courts; parole officers; • Firefighters; police officers; • School attendance officers; allied mental health and licensed human services professionals (marriage and family therapists, rehabilitation counselors, mental health counselors and educational psychologists); • Psychiatrists; clinical social workers; drug and alcoholism counselors; • Priests; rabbis; clergy members; ordained or licensed ministers; leaders of any church or religious body; accredited Christian Science practitioners; or any persons employed by a church or religious body to supervise, educate, coach, train or counsel a child on a regular basis; • A person in charge of a medical or other public or private institution, school or facility or that person's designated agent; and • Child Advocates.
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	Reasonable cause to believe a child is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse (including sexual abuse) which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare; neglect (including malnutrition) or physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth.
<i>Definition of Applicable</i>	A child is a person under the age of 18.

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<i>Victim</i>	
<i>Reports Made To</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Children and Families Child-At-Risk Hotline (1-800-792-5200) OR call the local DCF office in the relevant geographic area and ask for the “screening unit.” A list of local DCF offices can be found at the Department of Children and Families website under the “Regional and Area Offices Directory” link (in the bottom left-hand corner of the page). • Written reports should be faxed or mailed to the appropriate area DCF office. Please ask for the proper fax number when making the telephone report. In addition, a mandatory reporter may contact local law enforcement or an appropriate child advocate. • If a mandated reporter is a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school or facility, the mandated reporter may instead notify the person or designated agent in charge of such institution, school or facility who shall become responsible for notifying the department in the manner required by this section.
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and addresses of the child and the child’s parents or other person responsible for the child’s care, if known; • The child’s age and sex; • The nature and extent of the child’s injuries, abuse, maltreatment or neglect, including any evidence of prior injuries, abuse, maltreatment or neglect; • The circumstances under which the person required to report first became aware of the child’s injuries, abuse, maltreatment or neglect; • Whatever action, if any, was taken to treat, shelter or otherwise assist the child; • The name of the person making the report; • Any other information that the person reporting believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries; • The identity of the person responsible for the neglect or injuries; and • Other information required by the department. <p>The form for the written report is attached to this summary and can be located at</p>

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	http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dss/can_reporting_form.pdf
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	<p>Must report orally immediately followed within 48 hours by a written report.</p> <p>Hospital personnel that collect physical evidence of child abuse or neglect should immediately notify the local district attorney and local law enforcement (in addition to DCF).</p>
<i>Other</i>	<p>Failure of a mandatory reporter to report a reasonable belief of child abuse can result in a fine up to \$1,000. Starting on July 1, 2010, if the failure to report child abuse or neglect that resulted in serious bodily injury to, or death of, a child is done willfully, then the mandated reporter may be fined up to \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than 2½ years or both; any appropriate licensing authority will be notified.</p> <p>Clergy (and related spiritual leaders mentioned above) do not need to report if a report is made to them through a confession or other confidential communication.</p>
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	M.G.L.A. 119 §§ 21, 51A, <i>amended by</i> Mass. Legis. Serv. Ch. 176 (2009).

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