

Massachusetts Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

<p><i>Who Must Report?</i></p>	<p>Any of the following who <i>in their professional capacity</i> learn of suspected abuse:</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; • Day care and 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 day care or residential services (including child care resource and referral agencies, as well as voucher management agencies, family day 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, teach, train or counsel a child on a regular basis
<p><i>Standard of Knowledge</i></p>	<p>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</p>
<p><i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i></p>	<p>Child under the age of 18</p>
<p><i>Reports Made To</i></p>	<p>Department of Social Services Child-At-Risk Hotline (1-800-792-5200). Written reports should be faxed or mailed to the appropriate area DSS office. Please ask for the proper fax number when making the telephone report.</p>
<p><i>Contents of Report</i></p>	<p>Telephone report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name, address, sex, date of birth or approximate age, present whereabouts of the reported child or children, and any other children in the household • The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the child’s parents or other persons responsible for the child’s care • Any evidence or knowledge of prior injury, abuse, maltreatment or neglect

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The circumstances under which you first became aware of the child’s alleged injuries, abuse or neglect • Any action taken to treat, shelter or assist the child • Any additional information you believe may be helpful in establishing the cause of the child’s injury or the person responsible. <p>The form for the written report is attached to this summary and can be located at http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dss/can_reporting_form.pdf.</p>
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	Immediately by telephone followed within 48 hours by a written report
<i>Other</i>	
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	M.G.L.A. 119 § 51A