

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

MASSACHUSETTS

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Massachusetts Dept. of Child Protection at **1-800-792-5200** or any Law Enforcement Agency at **911**. You are not required to provide proof. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds is immune from prosecution. If the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours, a medical evaluation by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is available by going to the Emergency Department at Your County Medical Center or by going to the nearest child advocacy center.

HELPLINES

Child-At-Risk Hotline (24 hour)	1-800-792-5200
CWC Rape Crisis Hotline (24 hour)	1-888-337-0800
United Way Crisis Helpline (24 hour)	888-421-1266 211(after hours)
Darkness to Light Helpline	1-866- FOR-LIGHT (1-866-367-5444)
Childhelp: USA National Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Legal Help

MA State Bar	617-338-0500
Mass. Office for Victim Assistance	617-586-1340

Victim Advocacy

New Hope	1-800-323-4673
Independence House	508-771-6507

RESOURCES FOR HEALING

Treatment Providers

MA Department of Mental Health	617-624-6000
Health & Education Services, Inc	978-927-4506

Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused

Center for Women & Community (UMassAmherst)	413-545-0883
Health Imperatives	508-583-3005
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network	508-879-9800

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND/OR TRAUMA

www.darkness2light.org	1-843-965-5444
www.trauma-pages.com	
www.stopitnow.com	1-888-PREVENT (1-888-773-8368)

THERE ARE SEVERAL CHILD
ADVOCACY CENTERS IN THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Feel free to call the center
with any questions about
where to find resources
related to child sexual
abuse. Contact the nearest
CAC to set up an interview if
abuse is reported:

Massachusetts Children's Alliance

14 Beacon St, Suite 420
Boston, MA 02108
617-573-9800

CAC of Bristol County

58 Arch Street
Fall River, MA 02724
508-674-6111

MANDATED REPORTING

MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORTING LAWS

https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

Gen. Laws Ch. 119, § 21

Mandatory reporters include:

- Physicians, medical interns, hospital personnel, medical examiners, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, dentists, nurses, chiropractors, podiatrists, optometrists, osteopaths, allied mental health and human services professionals, drug and alcoholism counselors, psychiatrists, or clinical social workers
- Public or private schoolteachers, educational administrators, guidance or family counselors, or child care workers
- Persons paid to care for or work with a child in any public or private facility, home, or program that provides child care or residential services to children; persons who provide the services of child care resource and referral agencies, voucher management agencies, family child care systems, or child care food programs
- Licensors of the Department of Early Education and Care or school attendance officers
- Probation officers, clerk-magistrates of a district court, parole officers, social workers, foster parents, firefighters, or police officers
- Priests, rabbis, clergy members, ordained or licensed ministers, leaders of any church or religious body, or accredited Christian Science practitioners; persons performing official duties on behalf of a church or religious body that are recognized as the duties of a priest, rabbi, clergy, ordained or licensed minister, leader of any church or religious body, accredited Christian Science practitioner ; persons employed by a church or religious body to supervise, educate, coach, train, or counsel a child on a regular basis
- Persons in charge of a medical or other public or private institution, school, or facility or that person's designated agent
- The child advocate

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

Gen. Laws Ch. 119, § 51A(a), (h)

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. No employer shall discharge, discriminate, or retaliate against a mandated reporter who, in good faith, files a report, testifies, or is about to testify in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect. Any employer who discharges, discriminates, or retaliates against that mandated reporter shall be liable to the mandated reporter for treble damages, costs, and attorney's fees.

(continued on following page)

HOW TO REPORT IN MASSACHUSETTS

For reports Monday-Friday, 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM: Department of Children and Families (Berkshire Office) **413-236-1800**. For reports after 5:00 PM and weekends: Child-at-Risk Hotline **800-792-5200**

For mandated reporter training:

<http://middlesexcac.org/51A-reporter-training/>

MANDATED REPORTING

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

Gen. Laws Ch. 119, § 51A

A mandated reporter must report when, in his or her professional capacity, he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from:

- Abuse inflicted upon the child that causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, including sexual abuse
- Neglect, including malnutrition
- Physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth
- Being a sexually exploited child
- Being a human trafficking victim as defined by chapter 233, § 20M

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

Gen. Laws Ch. 119, § 51A

Any privilege relating to confidential communications, established by §§ 135 to 135B, inclusive, of chapter 112 [pertaining to social worker-client privilege] or by §§ 20A [clergy-penitent privilege] and 20B [psychotherapist-patient privilege] of chapter 233, shall not prohibit the filing of a report under this section or a care and protection petition under § 24, except that a priest, rabbi, clergy, member, ordained or licensed minister, leader of a church or religious body, or accredited Christian Science practitioner need not report information solely gained in a confession or similarly confidential communication in other religious faiths.

Nothing in the general laws shall modify or limit the duty of a priest, rabbi, clergy member, ordained or licensed minister, leader of a church or religious body, or accredited Christian Science practitioner to report suspected child abuse or neglect under this section when the priest, rabbi, clergy member, ordained or licensed minister, leader of a church or religious body, or accredited Christian Science practitioner is acting in some other capacity that would otherwise make him or her a mandated reporter.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

Gen. Laws Ch. 119, § 51A

A report shall include the name of the person making the report.