



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance**

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

KARYN POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

THOMAS G. MASSIMO
Acting Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2015-10
January 30, 2015**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From: AS Anne O'Sullivan, Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and External Relations

Re: Responding to Concerns about Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Overview

Department staff may be informed of or observe warning signs of child abuse or neglect at any point during the application process or at any point thereafter. If you feel that the safety or well-being of a child is in jeopardy, as a mandated reporter, you must make a referral to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Speak with local office management for assistance with the referral process.

For allegations of abuse and/or neglect, you must immediately file a Child Abuse and/or Neglect report (51A) by calling the local DCF Area Office and following up the oral report with a written 51A report within 48 hours. A list of DCF Area Office phone numbers, the written 51A report form and procedures for filing the form can be found on the DCF website at: www.mass.gov/dcf. Also available on the DCF website is extensive information on warning signs of child abuse/neglect, the referral process and DCF services for families in need.

Purpose

The following book has been added to the Cross-Program section of the Online Guide: *Responding to Concerns about Child Abuse and/or Neglect*.

New BEACON
Online Guide
Book/Page

Topic: Cross-Program
Book: Responding to Concerns about Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.