

SCHOOL BUS



Back to School Newsletter

It's that time again! Back to school season is upon us. Check out the information below to prepare for Fall.

Mandated Reporter Policies

Click on the images below to learn more about mandated reporters and filing a 51A report

MODULE 7

WHO ARE MANDATED REPORTERS?

Mandated reporters, or those who must, by law, report suspicions of abuse of a child, include:

- o Physicians, medical interns, hospital personnel engaged in the examination, care or treatment of persons
- o Public or private schoolteachers, school nurses and coaches
- o Educational administrators, guidance or family counselors
- o School attendance officers, allied mental health and licensed human services professionals
- o Drug and alcoholism counselors
- o Daycare and child workers, including any person paid to care for, or work with, a child
- o Probation officers, clerk magistrates of district courts, parole officers
- o Foster parents
- o Firefighters, E.M.T.s or police officers
- o Psychologists, psychiatrists, and clinical social workers
- o Priests, rabbis, clergy members, ordained or licensed ministers
- o Volunteer coaches/leaders, if they report to the paid staff of a school or community agency.



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Find additional information on mandated reporting [here](#).

MODULE 7

WHEN AND HOW TO FILE A REPORT

WHEN
You must file an oral report immediately upon suspicion that a child is suffering from abuse or neglect, with a written report to be submitted to D.C.F. within 48 hours after the filing of the oral report.

HOW
To make a report, you should call the D.C.F. Area office serving the child's residence and ask for the Protective Screening Unit, or call: Child at Risk Hotline: 1-800-792-5200



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As a mandated reporter in Massachusetts, you can now complete the written portion of your 51A report [here](#).

How Would Your Child's School Respond?

As an educator, school staff member, and/or parent in Massachusetts, are you familiar with your school's child abuse and neglect reporting process? Or the policies and practices employed to keep children safe from abuse while in school and out in the community? If not, contact your local school district to find out more! You can also check out the Massachusetts mandated reporting statute [here](#).

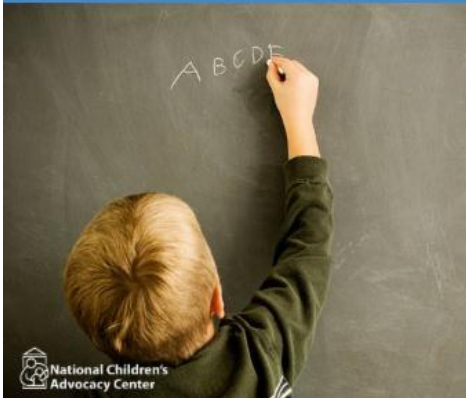
The MA Legislative Task Force to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse developed a handbook of guidelines and tools for youth serving organizations (including schools) to use when implementing sexual abuse prevention and intervention plans. Find the handbook [here](#).

Trauma & School Performance

For many kids, a new school year brings with it excitement and possibility. For those who have experienced abuse or neglect, it can be hard to navigate academically, socially, and emotionally. It's important for parents and educators to be aware of the effects of abuse and how they manifest in school.

As a Matter of Fact

The Relationship Between Child Maltreatment and Academic Achievement



1. Children exposed to maltreatment are at an increased risk of educational underachievement.
2. Neglected children have poorer academic performance than physically maltreated children.
3. Maltreated children have higher rates of absenteeism from school than non-maltreated peers.
4. Maltreated children are at substantially higher risk than non-maltreated children of repeating a grade.
5. Maltreated children are at an increased risk of dropping out of high school.
6. Maltreated children are more likely to be referred for special education services.
7. Maltreated children are more likely than their peers to exhibit poor social skills and classroom behavior.
8. A child's risk of poor academic functioning is substantially heightened by multiple victimizations.

Locate Your Community's Children's Advocacy Center

CACs not only provide direct services to victims of child abuse and their families, but they also serve as a critical community resource for those seeking knowledge about issues related to child abuse and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

There is a CAC in every Massachusetts county! Check out the map to the right and click [here](#) to find your local CAC's contact information.

