

Reporting suspected child abuse or neglect

If you suspect that a child that you know is a victim of abuse or neglect, you should report it to the proper civil authorities.

The suspected abuse or neglect of anyone under the age of 18 should be immediately reported to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Anyone can file a report of suspected abuse or neglect. Employees and volunteers of the Archdiocese of Boston, including parishes and schools, are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to DCF.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect call:

Massachusetts

Child at Risk Hotline #: 1-800-792-5200

Or your local DCF office

DCF office listed by town:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2020/01/16/Cities%20and%20Towns%20by%20Area%20Office%20-%20updated%202.6.17%20%289%29.pdf>

Rhode Island

1-800-742-4453

New Hampshire

1-603-271-6562

Suspected child abuse by Archdiocesan personnel while performing the work of the Archdiocese must be reported to the diocese as well as to DCF. Contact the Director of Professional Standards and Oversight at 617-746-5624.

Mandated Reporters

The state of Massachusetts includes the following in their list of mandated reporters:

“Clergy members, including ordained or licensed leaders of any church or religious body, persons performing official duties on behalf of a church or religious body, or persons employed by a religious body to supervise, educate, coach, train, or counsel a child on a regular basis.”

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcf-mandated-reporter-guide/download>

As mandated reporters, employees and volunteers of the church are required to report suspected child abuse to DCF both by phone and in writing. You can file your written report online here:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-child-abuse-or-neglect-as-a-mandated-reporter>

Save a copy of the written report for your files and submit a copy to the Office of Child Advocacy. Fax #: 617-746-5989.

For questions or help reporting child abuse or neglect, please contact the Office of Child Advocacy at 617-746-5995.