

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: MASSACHUSETTS

## DISCLOSURE TIPS



### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

- An adult's reaction to disclosure plays an important role in the beginning of the healing process for the child.
- "I'm really glad that you told me."
- "It took a lot of courage to tell me."
- "It's not your fault."
- "We will work together to get you help."
- "I will need to tell some other people who help to protect children."



### WHAT ARE THE CHILD'S NEEDS?

- Be careful not to make promises that you cannot keep. Do not promise you will not tell anyone.
- Report immediately.
- Only speak to those who have to know – confidentially.
- Gentle honesty – keep information age-appropriate and general.

## INFORMATION NEEDED



### HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE:



**WHO:** Who was involved?



**WHAT:** What occurred?



**WHEN:** When did it occur?



**WHERE:** Where did it occur?



**WHY:** Why did it happen (what were the circumstances surrounding the event)?



## MAKE A REPORT

If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Teachers are mandated reporters of suspected abuse. Mandated reporters in Massachusetts are required to complete a training on child abuse reporting; learn more and register here: <http://51a.middlesexcac.org/>

If you suspect abuse you must immediately call the 24-hour DCF Child Protection Hotline at 1-(800)-792-5200.

Mandated reporters are required to mail or fax a written report within 48 hours of making a verbal report. To make a written report, use the template that can be found on the department's website, here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf/child-abuse-neglect/reporting-abuse.html>