

The BLURB

The Blurb #51: Mandated Reporting

Department staff may be informed of or observe warning signs of child abuse or neglect at any client contact. As a mandated reporter if you feel that the safety or well-being of a child is in jeopardy, you must make a referral to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Speak with your local office manager for assistance with the referral process.

For allegations of abuse and/or neglect, you must immediately call the local DCF Area Office and follow up the oral report by filing a written Child Abuse and/or Neglect Report (51A) 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:

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

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