

## SAIN Team Members working on your case:

**Assistant District Attorney:** The lawyer who prosecutes child abuse cases in court.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Forensic Interviewer:** The professional who is specially trained to conduct a child-centered, legally sound interview of your child.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Service Advocate:** Your contact person at the DA's Office from whom you will receive support and ongoing information about your case.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**DCF Investigator:** The social worker from the Department of Children and Families assigned to investigate your case.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Local/State Police Officer:** The police officer from the Massachusetts State Police or city or town where the alleged abuse occurred.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**SAIN Team Coordinator:** The person who works with the professionals involved to coordinate and facilitate the Team interview and is also available to give you on-going information about your case.

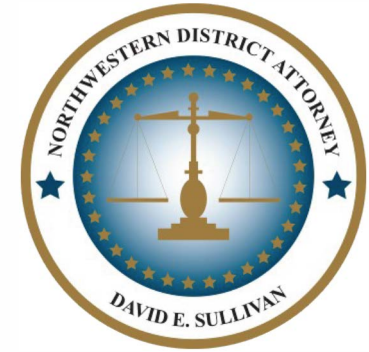
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



Supported by the  
Massachusetts Children's  
Alliance

[www.machildrensalliance.org](http://www.machildrensalliance.org)



## Family Service Advocates

Northwestern District Attorney's  
Child Abuse Unit  
One Gleason Plaza  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 584-6138

Northwestern District Attorney's  
Child Abuse Unit  
56 Bank Row  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
(413) 774-3186

Children's Advocacy Center  
for Hampshire County  
593 Elm Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
<https://cachampshire.org>  
(413) 570-5989

Children's Advocacy Center  
of Franklin County and North Quabbin Area  
56 Wisdom Way  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
[www.cacfranklinnq.org](http://www.cacfranklinnq.org)  
(413) 475-3401

## **Under the Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights, you and your family have the following rights in a criminal case:**

- To be informed about how the criminal case progresses through the system, what your role is in the process, what will be expected of you, and why.
- To assistance in applying for social services, financial assistance, and certification to receive information about an offender.
- To be updated on significant developments in the criminal case.
- To be notified in a timely manner of any changes in the schedule of court appearances for which you have been asked to appear.
- To be notified of the final disposition of the case, including an explanation of the type of sentence imposed and a copy of the conditions of probation, if any.
- To be present at all court proceedings. If you are called to testify and the judge determines that your testimony may be influenced by proceedings in the courtroom, you may be excluded from the courtroom until you have testified.
- To present to the court at sentencing a Victim Impact Statement about the physical, emotional, and financial effects of the crime on you, and your opinion regarding the sentence to be imposed.
- To speak with the prosecutor before the start of the trial, before a case is dismissed, and before a sentence recommendation is made to the court.
- To notice from the prosecutor whenever a defense motion is made to obtain any psychiatric or psychological records or other confidential information held by a third party.

## **Family Service Advocates**

Family Service Advocates are part of the North-western District Attorney's Child Abuse Unit. Family Service Advocates specialize in helping families and children who have experienced sexual or physical abuse.

You will meet the Family Service Advocate assigned to you at the initial Sexual Abuse Intervention Network (SAIN) interview, a multidisciplinary team approach designed to quickly respond to the needs of the child and family. The advocate will keep you informed on the progress of the case. From the time the defendant is charged until the disposition of the case, there are many court hearings. You are always welcome to attend any court hearing and the advocate will escort you. Should you decide not to attend court hearings, the advocate will call you after each hearing to explain the reason for the hearing and the outcome. The Family Service Advocate is a good source of information and will try to answer any of your questions. The advocate works closely with the prosecutor who is handling the case. Any legal questions will be answered by the prosecutor.

It is important that you keep the advocate updated on your address, phone numbers and email so that you can be informed about developments in the case.

The Family Service Advocate can also make referrals for follow-up of medical or mental health services, and complete the necessary paperwork to assist you in securing financial compensation for out-of-pocket expenses from the Victims' Compensation Board, if you qualify.

## **Mental Health Services**

A child who has suffered abuse often needs on-going help from a therapist who is trained in working with victims of abuse. The Child Abuse Unit Coordinator or the Family Service Advocate may provide referrals to therapists who have specialized training and experience in working with children.

The Child Advocacy Center has created a comprehensive list, available for parents/caretakers, of the local specialized services for their children that may assist them to begin the process of healing. Your Advocate or the Unit Coordinator can also provide referrals for support of caretakers and other family members.



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