Supports for Families with Youth Engaging in Problematic Sexual Behaviors

Never be afraid to ask for help

Incident of PSB* on a child/adolescent

Incident is reported to DCF*. DCF screens the 51A and sends the report to the DA

Report sent to DA*

DCF investigates** the allegation(s) if the report is screened in

Never be afraid to ask for help

Incident of PSB* CHILD UNDER 12

Incident of PSB* CHILD 12-17

Investigation

Masistrate hearing after charges are filed

Arraignment

Youth is adjudicated*

Youth is found non-delinquent and resources are available

Youth is found delinquent* and services/treatment provided by DYS*

Case dismissed and resources are available

Resources through local CACs* are available

Treatment options through ASAP*, Evidence Informed Treatment, and Residential facilities are available, if applicable•••

*Definitions are provided on the following page

**The investigation involves the child who has been harmed

***Other entities (e.g., EEC) may be involved in the investigation if reported by a licensed facility

www.safekidsthrive.org
Acronyms & Definitions

**Adjudicated**: Court/judge has decided that the youth has committed the accused act

**ASAP**: Assessment for Safe and Appropriate Placement

**CAC**: Child Advocacy Centers

**DA**: District Attorney

**DCF**: Department of Children & Families

**Delinquent**: A youth who has been found by a judge in juvenile court to have committed a violation of the criminal law, that is, a delinquent act

**DYS**: Department of Youth Services

**EEC**: Department of Early Education and Care

**MASOC**: Massachusetts Society for a World Free of Sexual Harm by youth

**MST-PSB**: Multi-Systemic Therapy - Problematic Sexual Behavior

**PSB**: Problematic Sexual Behavior

**PSB-CBT**: Problematic Sexual Behavior - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

This infographic was developed by the Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) Working Group of the Massachusetts Legislative Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. It provides families and professionals working with children a visual of the process when a child or teen engaging in problematic sexual behavior is reported to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Task Force will develop a comprehensive listing of resources in Massachusetts for anyone seeking help. For further information about child sexual abuse prevention, visit Safe Kids Thrive.