



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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ACTING COMMISSIONER

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Children and Families proposes to amend its Assessment regulations, 110 CMR 5.00 *et. seq.*, under the authority of M.G.L. c. 18B, §§ 3 and 7, and M.G.L. c. 119, §§ 29 and 37, and following M.G.L. c. 30A, §3.

The proposed amendments rename the chapter to “Family Assessment and Action Plan” to align with the DCF Family Assessment and Action Plan Policy; more clearly define the circumstances where a Family Assessment must be completed; expand the time to complete an initial Family Assessment from 45 working days to 60 business days; revise the requirements for conducting, completing and documenting a Family Assessment and combine all requirements into a single section; revise the procedures for review of a response decision for a first Family Assessment where the case is newly opened or reopened following a M.G.L. c. 119, § 51B response; and add the Department’s purpose, requirements and procedures for the completion of a family or individual Action Plan.

Individuals wishing to submit public comment may do so by sending comments to Thomas P. Weierman, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Children and Families, 600 Washington Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02111 or by email to [Thomas.P.Weierman@mass.gov](mailto:Thomas.P.Weierman@mass.gov) until August 23, 2024 by 5:00 P.M.

Individuals wishing to review the current draft of the proposed amendments may find a copy at [www.Mass.Gov/dcf](http://www.Mass.Gov/dcf) or may request a copy in writing or in person from Office of the General Counsel, Department of Children and Families, 600 Washington Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston MA 02111, or by EMAIL at [Thomas.P.Weierman@mass.gov](mailto:Thomas.P.Weierman@mass.gov), or by calling (617) 748-2063.

By order of the Department of Children and Families

Staverne Y. Miller

Acting Commissioner

## Small Business Impact Statement

*(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)*

**Agency: Department of Children and Families**

**CMR No.: 110 CMR 5.00: Assessment**

**Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: 0**

**The obligations in this regulation apply solely to the Department of Children & Families and families involved with the Department.**

### Select Yes or No and Briefly Explain

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.) The regulation governs how the Department will handle assessment and action planning for individuals and families involved with the Department. A standardized process is needed to ensure statewide consistency in practice.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? The regulation does not affect small business.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? The regulation does not affect small business.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? The regulation does not affect small business.