

## DCF Foster Care Review Changes (link to videos fixed)

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Wed 1/23/2019 5:39 PM

 1 attachment

Letter Andrew Todd Rome\_Foster Care Review 1-22-19.pdf;

This email is being sent on behalf of Andrew Todd Rome, General Counsel, DCF.

Over the past year the Department of Children and Families worked on updating the Foster Care Review policy. Beginning in January, 2019 a new format along with a new process was implemented. This new process includes emailing you the notice of the review along with the report. Additionally the Department is working on creating a portal where you will be able to enter dates when you would not be available for the review. We are currently anticipating that this portal will be accessible during the month of April. Our hope is that with these changes participation of parents, youth and attorneys will increase. Please read the attached letter to further understand the changes. Additionally the Department has created videos describing Foster Care Review. I would ask that you take a few minutes to review the videos which you can find using the link below. Should you have any questions, please contact your regional legal office or you may contact the identified individuals in the attached.

Foster Care Review Training Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF2PnsUUKnjh5I27AQmhd9Vh6UGCIHizE>

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Department of Children and Families

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January 22, 2019

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To Parent's and Children's Attorneys:

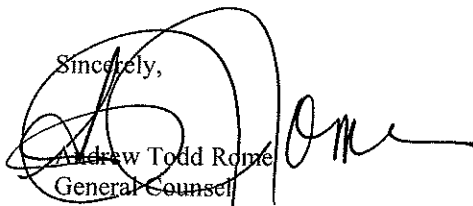
This letter is to notify you that the Department of Children and Families is revising and updating its process for conducting Foster Care Reviews. As part of the update, the Department will be notifying you of the scheduled date when Foster Care Review will occur via the Department's secure email system rather than through the US Mail system. Upon completion of the report, it will also be sent through this secure email system. In addition, the Department will now be able to send the notice at least 30 days prior to the scheduled review date.

The new process will begin with notices for reviews scheduled for March 2019. These notices will be sent at the end of January 2019. The Department will run a dual process of US Mail and email for the first two months, i.e. notices sent in January and February 2019, for reviews in March and April 2019. After that, notices will only be sent via email. The General Counsel's Office has set up a call line if you have any questions or concerns about the new process or if you do not receive notice of a foster care review. The number is 617-748-2315. In addition, you can email your concern or question to [Virginia.Peel@Massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Virginia.Peel@Massmail.state.ma.us), [Cristine.Tedstone@Massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Cristine.Tedstone@Massmail.state.ma.us) or [Andrew.Rome@Massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Andrew.Rome@Massmail.state.ma.us). If you withdraw from a case please inform the DCF legal department with the name of successor counsel.

The Department is working with the Committee for Public Counsel Services to obtain up to date and accurate addresses and email addresses for all of the attorneys who represent parents and children in Child Welfare Cases. If you move or change your email address, it is important that you notify the Department, as well as CPCS, so our systems can be updated. For the next few months, please send your address change to Virginia A Peel at [Virginia.Peel@Massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Virginia.Peel@Massmail.state.ma.us). In the future, the Department will be developing an on-line process for you to update your addresses directly.

The Department is hopeful that this revised system will provide more timely notifications to you about its Foster Care Review dates. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Andrew Todd Rome  
General Counsel  
Department of Children and Families