



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Tel: (617) 727-7775

TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618

Fax: (617) 727-4764

[www.mass.gov/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops)

**Deval L. Patrick**  
Governor

**Timothy P. Murray**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Kevin M. Burke**  
Secretary

June 10, 2009

To the Massachusetts Law Enforcement and Victim Services Communities:

On behalf of Governor Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Murray, I am pleased to present the Massachusetts Adult Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Guidelines, a model policy for police departments throughout the Commonwealth. As directed by Governor Patrick in Executive Order Number 486, this first-of-its-kind publication has been created by a working group of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence that included representatives from municipal and state police, district attorneys' offices, state and community-based victim advocates, and other experts in the field. Its content is informed by the collective wisdom and many years of experience of the committee members and reviewers in responding to reports of sexual assault.

The Guidelines are designed as a comprehensive, stand-alone document that will help guide law enforcement personnel in their investigations of sexual assaults and provide critical resources necessary to ensure a comprehensive response to victims. The 2009 Guidelines are based on three core principles:

1. Thorough and sound investigations;
2. Trauma-informed response; and
3. Interagency cooperation.

These principles are of critical importance in every investigation, from the initial call to courtroom testimony, and are reflected throughout the document.

Like the revised domestic violence guidelines disseminated earlier this year, we are distributing the 2009 Adult Sexual Assault Guidelines broadly to encourage a statewide uniform response to sexual assault investigations.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in ensuring that the 2009 Adult Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Guidelines are reviewed and, we hope, adopted by your department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin M. Burke".

Kevin M. Burke  
Secretary