

When the Juvenile Court is closed... ***Commonwealth of Massachusetts*** **Runaway Assistance Program (RAP)**

POLICE OFFICERS PROTOCOL

Effective November 21, 2014

The MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services is offering a new program to assist Police Officers who are dealing with runaways **during the hours that juvenile court is closed (evenings, weekends and holidays)**. After consultation with probation, and if the Police Officer determines a child cannot be safely delivered to a parent or other responsible adult (including DCF), the Police Officer may:

DIAL 2-1-1

1. During the hours that juvenile court is closed, a Police Officer (or dispatcher) dials 211; and when prompted, dials "1-1" to speak to a Runaway Assistance Program (RAP) Specialist.
2. The Mass211 RAP Specialist will provide the Police Officer with name and address of the closest available **Emergency Service Program (ESP)**.
3. The Mass211 RAP Specialist will then arrange a four way **conference call** between the **Police**, the **ESP** and the appropriate **non-secure Alternative Lock-Up Program (ALP)**. (Translation services may be immediately accessed in over 140 languages, if needed). The Mass 211 RAP Specialist will be the call moderator.
4. This call will determine the condition of the runaway child, and next steps.
5. Police Officer will drive the child to the local ESP for evaluation.
6. The ALP will be dispatched to the ESP.
7. ESP staff will greet the child and the Police Officer.
8. The ESP will conduct an assessment of the child and then provide assessment information to the ALP.
9. The ALP will arrange placement for the child, and arrange transportation to court on the next working day.