

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1861**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act relative to critical incident intervention by emergency service providers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 268 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3           Section 41.(a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5           “Abuse”, (i) causing or attempting to cause physical harm; (ii) placing another in fear of  
6 imminent physical harm; or (iii) causing another to engage in sexual relations by force, threat of  
7 force or coercion.

8           “Child abuse”, (i) physical or emotional injury on a person under 18 resulting from abuse  
9 which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, including sexual  
10 abuse; or (ii) neglect, including malnutrition.

11           “Crisis intervention services”, consultation, counseling, debriefing, defusing, intervention  
12 services, management, prevention and referral provided by a critical incident stress management  
13 team member or participant.

14           “Critical incident”, an event that results in acute or cumulative psychological stress or  
15 trauma to an emergency service provider as a result of the provider’s response to the event.

16           “Critical incident stress management”, a process of crisis intervention designed to assist  
17 emergency service providers in coping with the psychological trauma resulting from response to  
18 a critical incident, consistent with training standards established by the Massachusetts Peer  
19 Support Network.

20 “Critical incident stress management team”, a trained volunteer or participant or a group  
21 of trained volunteers or participants who offer critical incident stress management and crisis  
22 intervention services following a critical incident.

23 “Critical incident stress management team member” or “team member”, an individual  
24 specially trained to provide critical incident stress management and crisis intervention services as  
25 a member of an organized and registered team; provided, however, that team member shall  
26 include, but not be limited to, law enforcement officers, firefighters or emergency medical  
27 services providers; and provided further, that team members, both sworn and civilian, shall be  
28 designated by the colonel of state police or a sheriff or by a police chief, fire chief or director of  
29 emergency services in a city or town.

30 “Emergency service provider”, a police officer or civilian law enforcement employee  
31 including, but not limited to, an emergency dispatcher, sheriff, deputy sheriff, state police  
32 officer, employee of the Massachusetts emergency management agency, permanent or volunteer  
33 firefighter and permanent or volunteer emergency medical personnel.

34 (b) No critical incident stress management team member, team leader or other participant  
35 who provides or receives critical incident stress management and crisis intervention services  
36 shall be required to testify or divulge any information obtained solely through the provision of or  
37 receipt of such services and any information divulged to the team or a team member during the  
38 provision of critical incident stress management and crisis intervention services shall be kept  
39 confidential and shall not be disclosed to a third party, except as provided in this section. A  
40 critical incident stress management team member, team leader or other participant may disclose  
41 such information if: (i) the information indicates the existence of a danger to the individual who  
42 receives critical incident stress management or crisis intervention services or to any other person;  
43 or (ii) the information indicates the existence of past child abuse upon the individual or abuse by  
44 a family or household member as defined in section 1 of chapter 209A.