

December 31, 2009

The Honorable Steven T. James  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

The Honorable William F. Welch  
Clerk of the Senate

The Honorable Cynthia Stone Creem  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Eugene L. O'Flaherty  
House Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Sirs and Madam:

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008, "An Act Further Protecting Children," please find enclosed the first annual report. This report implements the methodologies outlined in the report submitted on December 31, 2008.

I believe that this annual report provides the Joint Committee on the Judiciary with the information required relative to the prosecution and disposition of offenses established under the Act. I look forward to working with the legislature on monitoring the implementation of this legislation.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Mulligan  
Chief Justice for Administration and Management

cc: The Honorable Therese Murray, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Robert E. DeLeo, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Karyn E. Polito, State Representative

Annual Report

Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008  
An Act Further Protecting Children



A Report to the

Clerk of the House  
Clerk of the Senate  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Submitted  
by:

Honorable Robert A. Mulligan  
Chief Justice for Administration and Management

December 31, 2009

## **Annual Report to Support Implementation of**

### **Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008 An Act Further Protecting Children**

#### **Introduction**

This report was prepared to comply with Section 5 of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008, "An Act Further Protecting Children" which provides that:

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the chief justice for administration and management of the trial court shall establish and implement an annual reporting system that shall provide information to the joint committee on the judiciary relative to the prosecution and disposition of cases which involve offenses established under this act. The reporting system shall be established not later than December 31, 2008, and the first annual report shall be filed with the clerk of the house and the clerk of the senate and the joint committee on the judiciary not later than December 31, 2009.

In meeting this reporting requirement, this first annual report summarizes the changes made by the legislation and presents relevant data on this population for state fiscal year 2009.

#### **Chapter 205 Legislative Summary**

Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008, entitled "An Act Further Protecting Children" was approved on July 24, 2008.<sup>1</sup> This legislation made the following changes to the offense structure in Massachusetts:

- Created three new crimes:
  - Indecent A&B on Child, Aggravated
  - Rape of Child, Aggravated
  - Rape of Child with Force, Aggravated

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<sup>1</sup> On June 4, 2008 House 4811 was engrossed by a vote of 143 to 3; on July 15, 2008 it was engrossed in the Senate by a vote of 35 to 1; and on July 24, 2008 it was signed by Governor Patrick.

- Broadened the subsequent offender provisions for three crimes:<sup>2</sup>
  - Indecent A&B on Child, Subsequent
  - Rape of Child, Subsequent
  - Rape of Child with Force, Subsequent
  
- Established six new mandatory sentencing provisions:
  - Indecent A&B on Child, Aggravated
  - Rape of Child, Aggravated
  - Rape of Child with Force, Aggravated
  - Indecent A&B on Child, Subsequent
  - Rape of Child, Subsequent
  - Rape of Child with Force, Subsequent

Table 1 summarizes changes in the penalty structure and offenses that were created under this legislation. In this first annual report, the focus was placed on those six offenses representing the new offenses and broadened offense elements. All of those six offenses involve new mandatory minimum penalties ranging from 10 years to 20 years. All of these offenses are in the sole jurisdiction of the Superior Court Department in Massachusetts. Offenders convicted and sentenced under these provisions will be sentenced to the Department of Correction.

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<sup>2</sup> Previous requirement was prior conviction of the same offense and current legislation calls for prior conviction of any enumerated sex offense.

**Table 1.**

**Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008, An Act to Further Protect Children  
Summary of Legislative Provisions**

Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008		Previous Statutes		Change	Revised Statutory Penalty	BMC / District Court Jurisdiction
c. 265 s. 13B	Indecent A&B on Child	c. 265 s. 13B	Indecent A&B on Child	No Change	10 year statutory maximum / 2 1/2 year house of correction alternative	yes, from Chapter 218, section 26
c. 265 s. 13B ½	Indecent A&B on Child, Aggravated			New Crime / 10 year Mandatory	life felony / 10 year state prison mandatory minimum / no house of correction alternative	no
c. 265 s. 13B ¾	Indecent A&B on Child, Subsequent	c. 265 s. 13B	Indecent A&B on Child, Subsequent	Broader Subsequent / 15 year Mandatory	life felony / 15 year state prison mandatory minimum / no house of correction alternative	no
c. 265 s. 22A	Rape of Child with Force	c. 265 s. 22A	Rape of Child with Force	No Change	life felony	no
			Rape of Child with Force, Armed, Firearm	Offense Eliminated		
			Rape of Child with Force, Armed, Firearm, Subsequent	Offense Eliminated		
c. 265 s. 22B	Rape of Child with Force, Aggravated			New Crime / 15 year Mandatory	life felony / 15 year state prison mandatory minimum / no house of correction alternative	no
c. 265 s. 22C	Rape of Child with Force, Subsequent	c. 265 s. 22A	Rape of Child with Force, Subsequent	Broader Subsequent / 20 year mandatory	life felony / 20 year state prison mandatory minimum / no house of correction alternative	no
c. 265 s. 23	Rape of Child, Statutory	c. 265 s. 23	Rape of Child, Statutory	No Change	life felony / 2 1/2 year house of correction alternative	no
c. 265 s. 23A	Rape of Child, Statutory, Aggravated			New Crime / 10 year Mandatory	life felony / 10 year state prison mandatory minimum / no house of correction alternative	no
c. 265 s. 23B	Rape of Child, Statutory, Subsequent	c. 265 s. 23	Rape of Child, Statutory, Subsequent	Broader Subsequent / 15 year Mandatory	life felony / 15 year state prison mandatory minimum / no house of correction alternative	no

**Chapter 205 Offense**

## Historical Data on Chapter 205 Related Offenses

As background to the current analysis, relevant historical information for offenders convicted prior to Chapter 205 was considered. While Chapter 205 impacts only a small proportion of these offenders – those who meet the subsequent or aggravated provisions provided by the legislation – this background information should be useful for providing a context for considering the implementation of these legislative provisions.

The following tables are based on annual statistical reports from the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission and the Department of Correction and show the following information on selected sex offenders:

- The number of offenders sentenced in the Superior Court;
- The number of offenders incarcerated in the Department of Correction; and,
- The number of offenders committed to the Department of Correction.

As shown in Table 2, in FY2008 177 offenders were sentenced for Indecent Assault and Battery on a Child, Rape of a Child, or Forcible Rape of a Child (including all subsequent offense convictions) in the Superior Court Department in Massachusetts. While these statistics are based solely on governing offense this substantially accounts for most sex offenders, as for most convicted sex offenders, the sex offense is their governing offense.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2.**  
**Governing Offense, Selected Sex Offenses,**  
**Superior Court Department, FY2003 to FY2008<sup>4</sup>**

Selected Sex Offenses	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Rape of Child, Forcible	31	36	30	29	39	30
Rape of Child	125	112	96	104	97	96
Rape of Child, 2nd	3	1	1	0	3	0
A&B Indecent Child	38	34	58	39	36	49
A&B Indecent Child, 2nd	2	0	1	2	2	2
Total	199	183	186	174	177	177

<sup>3</sup> The Massachusetts Sentencing Commission estimates that 4.6% of all sex offenders were convicted of an offense other than a sex offense as the governing offense and that 3.8% of sex offenders convicted in the Superior Court Department were convicted of an offense other than a sex offense as the governing offense. (Massachusetts Sentencing Commission, *Survey of Sentencing Practices, FY 2008*).

<sup>4</sup> The source of these data is the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission, *Survey of Sentencing Practices, FY2003 to FY 2008*.

Table 3 shows the number of offenders currently incarcerated in the Department of Correction for selected sex offenses for the period 1999 to 2009. As shown in Table 3, as of January 1, 2009 there were 785 offenders incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities for the offenses of Rape of Child, Forcible Rape of Child, and Indecent Assault and Battery on a Child.

**Table 3.**

**Governing Offense, Selected Sex Offenses,  
Inmates in Department of Correction Facilities,  
January 1, 1999 to 2009<sup>5</sup>**

Governing Offense	1999	2004	2009
Rape of Child, Forcible	404	314	302
Rape of Child	548	475	387
A&B Indecent Child	151	107	96
Total	1,103	896	785

Table 4 shows the number of new court commitments to the Department of Correction for the three years 1998, 2003 and 2008 for selected sex offenses. In 2008 there were a total of 113 offenders committed to the Department of Correction for forcible rape of child, rape of child, or Indecent Assault and Battery on a Child.

**Table 4.**

**Governing Offense, Selected Sex Offenses,  
Inmates Committed to the Department of Correction,  
1998, 2003, and 2008**

Governing Offense	1998	2003	2008
Rape of Child, Forcible	37	33	29
Rape of Child	82	70	66
A&B Indecent Child	31	15	18
Total	150	118	113

<sup>5</sup> Massachusetts Department of Correction, *Inmate Statistics, January 1, 1999, 2004, and 2009*. This table excludes those offenders placed in treatment facilities managed by the Department of Correction such as the Bridgewater State Hospital or the Treatment Center for the Sexually Dangerous.

## **Chapter 205 Report Statistical Results**

As indicated in the reporting plan submitted in December 2008, the types of information available in the first annual report to the legislature would include the number of indictments, the status of the case at the end of the reporting period, the number of defendants sentenced under this legislation, and the length of sentences imposed. The methodology used to implement this reporting system is contained in the Appendix.

As noted earlier, Chapter 205 became effective on October 22, 2008. Those who committed any one of the six designated sex offenses on or after that date were subject to the mandatory sentencing provisions of Chapter 205. The following table shows the results of the data collection efforts for those charged with a Chapter 205 offense where the offense occurred between October 22, 2008, and June 30, 2009, the end of FY 2009.

The following table shows the results of the data collection effort. This table is limited to those cases where one or more of the charges were one of the six Chapter 205 offenses (e.g. subsequent or aggravated charge with an underlying offense of forcible rape of child, rape of child, or indecent assault and battery of child).

Some of the findings shown in Table 5 are:

- There were 11 cases indicted where one or more of the charges was subject to the provisions of Chapter 205;
- Currently, 9 of these cases are still active, none are suspended, and 2 have been disposed;
- Of the disposed cases, all resulted in a conviction and sentenced and no cases had any other disposition;
- Of the disposed cases one was disposed by a jury trial and one was disposed by a plea of guilty to an offense not covered by Chapter 205;
- Of the disposed and sentenced cases, both resulted in a period of incarceration including one mandatory sentence and one other sentence to the Department of Correction.

**Table 5.**  
**Chapter 205 Cases -**  
**Cases Indicted, Current Status, Disposition, and Sentence**

Case Status	FY2009
<b>Cases Indicted</b>	11
<b>Current Status of Case</b>	
Active	9
Suspended	0
Disposed	2
Total	11
<b>Disposed Cases</b>	
Convicted and Sentenced	2
Other Disposition	0
Total	2
<b>Sentenced Cases</b>	
Convicted of Chapter 205 Offense	1
Convicted of Other Offense	1
Total	2
<b>Sentence Information</b>	
15 Year Mandatory	1
Other Incarceration to State Prison	1
Total	2

## **Summary**

This first annual report meets the requirements established by the Legislature under Chapter 205. As the provisions of the law became effective in the latter part of calendar year 2008 there were not a large number of cases that came before the court and reached final disposition. It is the intention of the Administrative Office of the Trial Court to maintain this annual reporting requirement by continued follow-up of those cases which began in state fiscal year 2009 along with reporting new cases that come before the court in state fiscal year or after. The Administrative Office of the Trial Court looks forward to continued work with the legislature on the implementation and monitoring of this legislation and welcomes suggestions or comments for further improvement of this effort.

## **Appendix - Chapter 205 Reporting Methodology**

As noted in the planning report submitted in December 2008, the annual reporting system is required to consider the prosecution and disposition of cases under these provisions. At a minimum the reporting system should include the number of new cases filed, the number of cases resulting in a conviction, and the sentence imposed for those cases. The governing offense and secondary offenses were included. In order to be fiscally responsible, the reporting strategy relied on existing automated systems or statistical reporting systems.

The legislation requires that the first annual report be submitted no later than December 31, 2009. As recommended in the planning report submitted in December 2008, the first report submitted to the legislature includes the most recent state fiscal year (FY 2009) or the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The initial study sample was all defendants arraigned in Superior Court during FY2009 with one or more charges for a sex offense. From this initial broader sample, those cases where the specific provisions of Chapter 205 applied were selected for further data collection and analysis.

Chapter 205 was approved effective July 24, 2008 and became effective on October 22, 2008. All of the charges that were classified as potential Chapter 205 charges that were indicted during the period July 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008 were considered to be indicted under the old law. District court arraignment dates were reviewed to determine the status of those cases indicted from November 2008 through June 2009 which are currently disposed to ascertain the applicability of the Chapter 205 provisions.

As set forth in the planning report submitted in December 2008, two data sources were available to measure the number of cases indicted under the new and revised section of the legislation – the Superior Court Department and the Office of the Commissioner of Probation. The Office of the Commissioner of Probation has information on arraignments and would provide the number of new arraignments for selected offenses over the sampling period. The Superior Court Department has an automated system – Forecourt – that can be used to further report charges and disposition of these cases.

Data was collected from the Court Activity Record Information (CARI) database maintained by the Office of the Commissioner of Probation. A sample of all Superior Court arraignments for FY2009 was selected from the Office of the Commissioner of Probations Court Activity Record Information (CARI) database. This yielded a total of 21,133 charges.

All of the offenses and descriptive information was reviewed to identify sex offense charges. All cases involving kidnapping or "Attempt to Commit a Crime" were further reviewed to determine if the offense should be considered a sexual offense.

A total of 2,322 charges were determined to be sex offense related. Some of the sex offense related cases might have other types of charges associated with them. For example, a case might involve a sex offense and a weapons offense charge. For each

case involving at least one sex offense charge, all of the charges were selected. Thus a total of 2,891 charges were selected. These charges involved a total of 522 cases (some individual offenders had more than one case during the calendar year). These cases represent those individuals arraigned in a superior court with one or more charges for a sex offense during FY2009.

The CARI file docket was converted to a Forecourt docket format to allow secondary data collection effort to ensure that all of the potential Chapter 205 offenses were identified. All charges from the Forecourt database were included even if some were arraigned at a period of time before or after FY2009. For purposes of this analysis at least one of the charges was arraigned in FY2009. The unit of analysis for this report is a case. Of the 522 cases identified in the CARI data-base, information was not available in the Forecourt database for 11 cases. The CARI database included some cases for whom "no bill" was issued for any of the charges (N= 5) and the case was not found in some cases (N = 6). In addition specific charge information was not available in Forecourt for two cases.

The current status of the case was determined from the Forecourt data base. All data collection was done between November 19, 2009 and December 8, 2009. Cases were assigned to one of three statuses: active, suspended (usually due to mental incapacity or defendant unavailable), and disposed. All of the offenses that are subject to the provisions of Chapter 205 are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court Department and are subject to the Criminal Case Management standards adopted by the Trial Court.<sup>6</sup> Cases involving rape are assigned to track "C" and other sex offense cases are assigned to track "B" with presumptive trial dates of 360 days and 270 days respectively. In this first annual report, it is expected that many of the cases subject to the provisions of Chapter 205 will be active at the time of the data collection for this report.

For those cases that have been disposed, the type of disposition and sentence was collected using the data available in both the CARI database and the Forecourt database. Data collection on sentence structure was based on the method used by the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission in the on-going survey of sentencing practices. Type of disposition included the following categories: dismissed, nolle prosequi, not guilty finding, not guilty verdict, guilty plea, guilty finding, and guilty verdict.

All cases in the sample had one or more charges for a sex offense. Based on those charges, defendants in the sample were assigned to one of three groups:

- Chapter 205 sex offenses (one or more charges for an offense impacted by Chapter 205);
- Child sex offenses (one or more charges for an offense not covered by Chapter 205 but involving a child victim);
- Other sex offenses (one or more charges of any other type of sex offense); and,
- Other offenses (one or more charges for attempt of a sex offense or other charges under a separate docket arraigned on the same date as a sex offense case).

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<sup>6</sup> Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court, Standing Order No. 2-86 (Amended)  
<http://www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/superiorcourt/amended-standing-order2-86.pdf>.