

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Massachusetts Law Reform Institute to Release Report on Family Homelessness  
Crisis in Massachusetts**

Please join the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) as we release our new report ***“Out in the Cold: Homeless Children in Crisis in Massachusetts.”*** Representatives of the medical community, including the Massachusetts Hospital Association, as well as affected families, members of the faith community and others will participate. Hosted by State Senator Ken Donnelly and State Representative Denise Provost.

**What:** Press conference to release report: *“Out in the Cold” Homeless Children in Crisis in Massachusetts*

**When:** **Tuesday, April 9, 2013 - 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Where:** **Massachusetts State House Room 222**

**Who:** State Senator Ken Donnelly  
State Representative Denise Provost  
Georgia Katsoulomitis, Esq., Executive Director, Mass Law Reform Institute  
Megan Sandel, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at Boston University School of Medicine, Co-Principal Investigator of Children's Health Watch  
Michael E. Sroczynski, Esq., V.P. Government Advocacy, Mass Hospital Association  
Client / Affected Mother  
Rev. Susan B Chorley, Sr. Program Director, Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

Report authors, Ruth Bourquin, Esq. and Liza Hirsch, Esq. will be available for questions

**Why:** In September 2012, Massachusetts imposed new restrictions on eligibility to emergency shelter for homeless families with children. Instead of advancing a true Housing First policy, where homeless families are transitioned into stable housing, these new regulations are instead creating a humanitarian crisis in the Commonwealth. After implementation of the regulations, nearly 70% of homeless families with children are now denied access to shelter. The vast majority of these families are not provided with any housing options by the State. This report highlights the adverse impacts of these regulations—including, e.g., forcing homeless children to stay in places not meant for human habitation, shifting cost burdens to the Commonwealth's health care system, and forcing vulnerable families to resort to unsafe and destabilizing irregular housing practices—and makes recommendations to fix the most urgent problems.

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