

## What is myCHIP?

The Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program (**myCHIP**) addresses the alarming fact that over 1,000,000 children are reported missing in the United States each year. While most are found, many are not. Also, the abduction of children is both under-reported and rapidly increasing in our society.

The Masonic **myCHIP** Program is the most comprehensive service of its kind anywhere. **myCHIP** is provided free of charge to the public and all of the identifying items generated during **myCHIP** are given to the child's family.

### *The myCHIP program includes the following:*

**Videotape:** A brief videotaped interview is worth a thousand still photos. The **myCHIP** interview captures the appearance, speech, mannerisms, and other important personal characteristics of a child. It can be quickly distributed via the media to reach a huge audience. It is the cornerstone of **myCHIP**.

**Fingerprinting:** Fingerprinting is a well-known means of identification. Everyone's prints are unique. Resourceful parents keep fingerprints available should the need arise.

**Toothprints™ bite impression** is quick and easy. Teeth, like fingerprints, are unique. Even in a child who is losing and gaining teeth, a dental imprint gives both accurate and important information for identification purposes.

**DNA Swab:** In a **myCHIP** event we use a special swab to painlessly remove a few living cells from the inner cheeks of participating children. Like all living cells they contain the DNA of the individual. These cheek cells will stick to the swab, eventually leaving their DNA on the swab. If properly stored, this DNA can be used to identify the individual years later.

## Would YOU Like to Sponsor a myCHIP Event?

### Here's How:

Anyone may initiate and sponsor a **myCHIP** Event. All coordination of events is through The Freemasons of Massachusetts.

If you or your organization would like more information regarding **myCHIP**, please go to our website: **www.mychip.org**.

To request services from the Aleppo and Melha Clown Units contact Ernie Pearlstein at [epearlstein@massfreemasonry.org](mailto:epearlstein@massfreemasonry.org).

### The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts

186 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA 02111

(**myCHIP** – Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program)

**www.mychip.org**



# myCHIP

Grand Lodge  
of Massachusetts  
Child ID Program

**www.mychip.org**

in cooperation with the

Massachusetts  
Crime Prevention  
Officers Association

and the

Massachusetts  
Dental Society

## The History of myCHIP

MyCHIP has been offered by Masons in 26 states. Member Stafford Sheehan brought myCHIP to Massachusetts in 1996. The program provided a videotaped interview giving far more information than other identification programs utilizing a single photo. Fingerprinting was also included.

In 1998, Dr. David Harte, a Mason himself, brought Toothprints™, a technique developed by Dr. David Tesini, a Massachusetts children's dentist, to CHIP. Its addition made CHIP the most thorough child identification program available.

Accordingly, to provide the licensed personnel needed to administer Toothprints™, the Massachusetts Freemasons joined with the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) in February of 1999.

Fingerprinting likewise is best done by trained personnel. In June of 1999 the Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association (MCPOA) joined the team. These dedicated officers provide expertise in fingerprinting and practical experience so important in making myCHIP more effective.

Massachusetts Freemasons, the MDS, and the MSPOA are committed to building myCHIP so that ANY parent wanting their children to receive this FREE comprehensive service will find myCHIP regularly offered in their communities. Working together, we can provide an additional measure of security for our families and our beloved children.



To request the services from Aleppo and Melha clown units please contact Mr. Ernest Pearlstein at [epearlstein@freemasonry.org](mailto:epearlstein@freemasonry.org)

## Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association

The Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association (MCPOA) is comprised of city, town, state, and federal law enforcement agencies within Massachusetts. Our primary goal is crime prevention, education, and awareness through Community Policing. We strive to provide all citizens within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts an awareness of their responsibility to prevent criminality and acts of crime and to create prevention throughout society (e.g. home, school, church, civic organizations, and the business community). We fully support the myCHIP program for our children as an excellent crime prevention tool.

## Massachusetts Dental Society

The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS), a 4,500 member statewide affiliate of the American Dental Association, provides dental health information to the public and sponsors dental access programs for the handicapped, senior citizens, and low-income people. It is committed to provide the highest quality, compassionate health care, accessible to all, and to educate the public regarding the value of orofacial health as it relates to well-being. The MDS strives to be the ultimate resource for all groups or individuals seeking information regarding the practice of dentistry in Massachusetts. In keeping with this tradition the MDS is pleased to support Toothprints™ as part of myCHIP.

## Massachusetts Freemasons

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest fraternity in the world. Freemasonry came to Massachusetts in 1733 and notes many famous patriots among its members.

Founded upon the timeless principles of charity and brotherhood, Masons today continue the honored traditions of self improvement and charity for all mankind.

Freemasonry spends over \$3,000,000 a day in over three hundred charities such as the Shriner's Burns Hospitals, sponsorship of DeMolay and Rainbow Chapters, Gritti's Dentistry for Special Needs Children, the Scottish Rite Learning Centers for Dyslexic Children, and other scholarship and charitable programs, many directed toward youth. We are proud to add myCHIP as a cornerstone to that group.