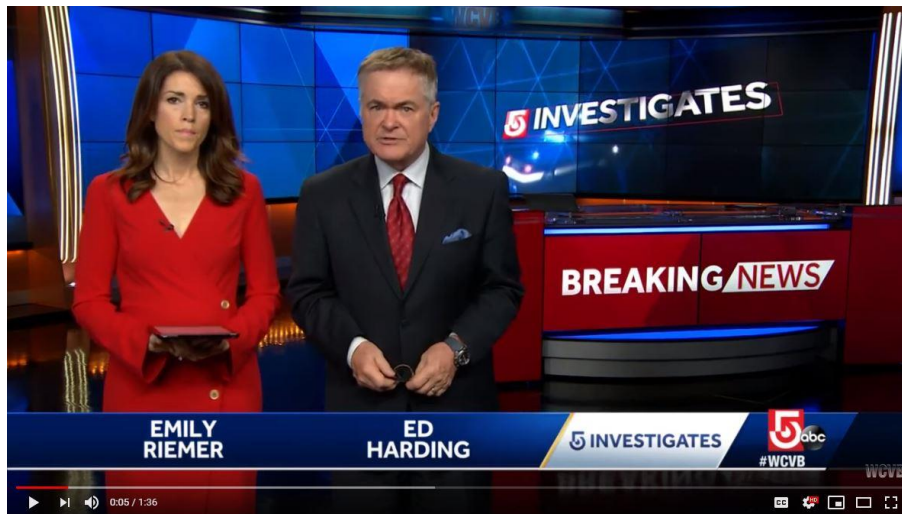


# 5 Investigates: Probe into DCF adoption documents

Nov. 1, 2019



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## Possible notary fraud under investigation at DCF Roxbury office

Kathy Curran | Nov 1, 2019

**BOSTON** — The state is investigating allegations that a social worker who is a licensed notary allowed another social worker and supervisor to illegally notarize adoption documents using her seal, sources tell 5 Investigates.

The investigation is looking into whether employees at the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families may have also forged the notary's signature on records. The practice may have been going on for years in DCF's Roxbury office.

We've learned the supervisor is on paid administrative leave, the social worker who is the notary resigned and the other social worker retired.

The notary in question was appointed in 2015, and her term expires in 2020.

We asked DCF what the impact would be on those adoptions and if the department has notified prosecutors about the allegations.

DCF issued a response that did not address those questions but said, "Due to confidentiality requirements, the Department of Children and Families cannot comment on personnel matters."

An attorney who practices family law said he does not think the issue will disrupt adoptions but the paperwork may have to be addressed in court.