



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services

November 6, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Child Support Managers and Supervisors

SUBJECT: Foster Care Legislative Changes

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Action Needed ☐ Time Sensitive
Action Needed ☐ Immediate Action Needed

Effective October 1, 2025, a change affecting the provision of child support services to children in foster care was implemented as part of child welfare legislation SL 2025-16 entitled Fostering Care in NC Act. The law revises the following statute:

G.S. 50-13.10 – Past due child support vested; not subject to retroactive modification; entitled to full faith and credit. The new law adds an item (5) to the list of situations where a child support payment, or any portion thereof, is not past due and no arrearage accrues “when foster care assistance owed to the State by the supporting party during any period when the child is placed in the custody of a department of social services.”

This legislation does not affect referrals from Child Welfare to Child Support Services (CSS); referrals will continue through NC FAST when a child or children enter foster care after October 1, 2025, per Administrative Rule 10A NCAC 70B.0104.

To implement this legislative change, a Data Warehouse report titled “DSS Director and Foster Care Reports” has been updated. Instructions for accessing and using this report, along with detailed guidance for processing foster care cases, are attached. These resources will assist counties in identifying and managing foster care cases that have been referred to CSS, as well as handling foster care situations in the future.

To further enhance your understanding of the new policy and the case handling instructions, a webinar has been scheduled for next week. Please watch your email for the webinar announcement and registration link.

Chapter G, Topic 4, Sections A-F and other relevant sections of the CSS Policy & Procedure manual related to foster care will be updated to reflect the new foster care policy and case handling procedures by November 7, 2025. While case processing for foster care children has been impacted, there are no changes to the functionality of the Automated Collection and Tracking System (ACTS).

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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If you have any questions, please contact the Policy and Training Unit at csetraining@dhhs.nc.gov or your Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Verna Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Verna Donnelly
North Carolina State Child Support Deputy Director

cc: Regional CQI Specialist
CSS_25_44