



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor  
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary  
LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

January 2, 2026

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH AWARENESS - WEBINARS AND RESOURCES**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Information Only  Time Sensitive  Immediate

**PURPOSE: TO NOTIFY COUNTIES OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND WEBINARS RELATED TO SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE AT RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OR ARE MISSING, ABDUCTED, AND RUNAWAY**

January is designated as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. According to the [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#), children and youth impacted by the child welfare system are at a higher risk for human trafficking due to issues such as potentially unstable living situations, experiences of abuse and neglect, emotional vulnerability, and disrupted support systems. In addition, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) finds that 1 in 6 of the children reported missing who had run away were likely child sex trafficking victims.

**WEBINARS “Collaborating with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)”**

NCDHHS DSS will be hosting two webinars alongside NCMEC to share the following:

- DSS policy requirements for missing, abducted, and runaway children and youth
- Federal and state resources for human trafficking
- **NCMEC's Response to Child Sex Trafficking: Reporting & Resources**
  - Learning Objectives:
    1. Learn the why behind federal mandates that require child welfare, law enforcement, and NCMEC to work together
    2. Understand how to utilize NCMEC resources
    3. Consider unique language and barrier differences between systems
    4. Deepen understanding of youth-defined safety with tools for reducing running behavior with harm reduction and safety planning
    5. Review lessons learned from youth and case examples that can help us in the future.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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These webinars will **not be recorded**; however, handouts will be provided to participants. Each webinar will provide the same content, with two opportunities for you to attend. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Date	Time	Registration Link
1/26/26	1-2pm	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>
1/28/26	11-12pm	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>

Additionally, below are several websites, webinars, trainings, and resources that can assist child welfare agencies in strengthening response to human trafficking.

Federal Resources:

- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#)
  - NCMEC [Case Worker Guide to Reporting Missing Children from Care](#)
  - NCMEC [Frequently Asked Questions of Social Services Agencies for Children Missing from Care](#)
  - NCMEC [Assistance with Removing Sexually Exploitive Images or Videos Removed from the Internet](#)
  - NCMEC [Professional Training opportunities](#)
- ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP):<https://acf.hhs.gov/otip>
- Online Training through OTIP: Responding to Human Trafficking Through the Child Welfare System:  
[https://www.train.org/main/course/1107319/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=acftraffickingresource011823](https://www.train.org/main/course/1107319/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=acftraffickingresource011823)

North Carolina Resources:

- [NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)
- [NC Human Trafficking Commission](#)
  - [Resource Directory](#): A directory of NC anti-human trafficking organizations and services.

Please refer to the [NCDSS Permanency Planning Manual](#) for information on NC statute, policy, and best practices related to human trafficking for children in the custody of child welfare agencies.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the safety, well-being, and permanence of children and youth in North Carolina's child welfare system. Should you have questions, please contact Jessica Frisina at [Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov).

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Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW  
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support  
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations  
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services  
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family  
Services

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