



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

July 9, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: PERMANENCY AND IN-HOME POLICY UPDATES

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: IMPLEMENTATION OF UPDATED POLICY

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Information Only ☒ Time Sensitive ☒ Immediate

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) is dedicated to providing the most current information available. In alignment with this commitment, policy and forms have been updated to reflect that children who come into the custody of a NC county child welfare agency through Safe Surrender may be eligible for Adoption Assistance. Please review the documents linked below for more comprehensive information.

- [Adoption Policy Manual](#)
- Adoption Assistance Eligibility Checklist ([DSS-5012](#))
 - For PATH NC Ongoing Counties: This form is not yet updated in PATH NC. Until further notice, caseworkers should complete this form using the version on DSS web and upload the completed copy to the casefile in PATH NC.

Next Steps:

To provide support and answer questions, there are two live office hours scheduled for the following dates. Please click on the links to register below:

- [Monday, July 20th 11-12 pm](#)
- [Monday, August 3rd 11-12 pm](#)

For questions, please contact your Regional Child Welfare Specialist (RCWS).

Sincerely,

Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Section Chief, Permanency
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief, Regulatory and Licensing
Kathy Stone, Section Chief, Safety
Heather McAllister, Section Chief, Child and Family Services
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief, County Operations

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