



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

July 30, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS,
MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, CASE WORKERS AND PRIVATE LICENSING AGENCIES**

**SUBJECT: NEW RESOURCES FOR KINSHIP FAMILY SEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT,
KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENCY PLANNING**

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Immediate

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) is committed to providing county child welfare agencies and private licensing agencies with tools that support diligent search, meaningful engagement, and ongoing partnership with kinship caregivers. The following new and updated resources are now available to assist in this important work:

1. [Kinship Family Search and Engagement Desk Guide](#)

- **Purpose:** This guide provides practical guidance, tips, and strategies to search for and engage kin throughout the life of a child welfare case, from Intake to Permanency - including Licensing.
- **How to Use:** Review the sections related to your work (i.e. Intake, Assessments, In-Home, etc.) for an overview of policy requirements, search and engagement strategies, key questions to ask, and practice considerations.

2. [Permanency Options Comparison Chart](#)

- **Purpose:** This 2-page document provides a snapshot of the different supports and services that may be available to children in foster care, in permanent care, or in extended foster care.
- **How to Use:** Share this chart with caregivers to support permanency planning, including concurrent planning, and to help individuals understand which support may be available to them.

3. [Kinship Care 101 Flyer](#)

- **Purpose:** This brief flyer offers information on kinship foster care, kinship licensure, KinGAP eligibility criteria, and post-permanency supports.
- **How to Use:** Provide this flyer to caregivers to increase their awareness of available resources.

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LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2408 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

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4. [Kinship Caregivers and Child Welfare: Understanding Your Role and Options](#)

- **Purpose:** This document offers a comprehensive overview of information and resources for kinship caregivers who are a Temporary Safety Provider (TSP) or who is caring for a child who is foster care.
- **How to Use:** Share this resource with kinship caregivers, youth in foster care placed with kin, or anyone seeking to understand the support, resources, and benefits available to children placed with kin. Caseworkers and other professionals may also find it useful when discussing available support with families.

As we approach Kinship Care Month in September, these resources and others will be highlighted in upcoming webinars. We encourage you to review the new materials and share them with your staff.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the safety, well-being, and permanency of children, youth, and families involved with North Carolina's child welfare system. Should you have questions, please contact the State Permanency Coordinator, Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Lisa T. 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
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief, Regulatory and Licensing
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Well-Being
Tammy Shook, Interim Assistant Deputy Director, Child Welfare Services
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief, Operations

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