



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVDDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

October 3, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: “HB612- FOSTERING CARE IN NC ACT” POLICY CHANGES

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: IMPLEMENTATION OF UPDATED POLICY

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

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS), is committed to ensuring that counties are provided with protocol and guidance that supports compliance with the law and best practices for providing child welfare services to children and families. On June 26, 2025, Governor Josh Stein signed [SL 2025-16, Fostering Care in NC Act](#), into law. The legislation enacts several changes that impact child welfare policy and practice.

Please refer to the policy changes and manual updates below to ensure staff have access to the most up-to-date information.

Intake & Assessments-Related Policy Updates

All changes to the Intake and Assessment manuals (CPS and PATH NC) are highlighted yellow and the script is in red. Red changes are maintained due to PATH NC roll out and highlighted changes indicate alignment with current legislative changes.

- Section 1.6.(a)&(c) After-Hours Court Orders (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-502; § 7B-404)
 - See Filing a Petition in the Cross Function Manual
- Section 1.7. Telephonic communication authorized (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-508)
- Section 1.19.(b) Expungement from Responsible Individuals List (RIL) (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-325)

Permanency-Related Policy Updates:

All H612-related policy changes are in red.

- Section 1.11.(a) Rylan’s Law Clarification and Jurisdiction H612 (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-903.1)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 106-107
- Section 1.11.(b) Juvenile Placements (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-903; § 7B-905)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 54-55
 - See [Cross Function Manual](#) under Filing a Petition
- Section 1.12.(a) Emergency motion for placement and payment (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-903.2)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 70-71
- Section 1.14.(d) Reinstatement of parental rights (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-1114)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) page 138

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

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- Section 1.16.(a) RRT; Hospitals and Juveniles in DSS Custody for Mental Health Treatment (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-903)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 67-69
- Section 2.3 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) (amends N.C.G.S. § 108A-50.10)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 127-130
 - See [Appendix 3.7 Child Welfare Funding – KinGAP & GAP Payments](#)
 - See [DSS-1813: KinGAP & GAP Eligibility and Determination Checklist](#) (renamed and updated)
 - See [DSS-1810: KinGAP & GAP Agreement](#) (renamed and updated)
 - See [DSS-1888 KinGAP & GAP Annual Eligibility Letter](#) (new form)
- Section 1.8. Co-Guardianship at Permanency (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-600)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) page 126
- Section 1.13. Concurrent Planning (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-906.2(b))
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 140-142
- Sections 1.1. & 1.18.(a)-(c) Post-Adoption Contact Agreement (adds N.C.G.S. § 7B-101(16a), § 7B-909.2; § 7B-909.3; § 50-13.2B)
 - See [Permanency Planning Manual](#) pages 136-137
 - See [Adoptions Manual](#) pages 55-56

DHHS Administrative Policy Updates:

- Section 1.3.(a) Pre-Petition; Division Review (amends N.C.G.S. § 7B-302)
- Section 1.4.(a) Conflicts of Interest (adds N.C.G.S. § 7B-302.1)

Screening and Case Decision Letters

The team with PATH NC is currently working to make the letters available in PATH NC. This will not occur prior to October 1st. In the interim, please use the following instructions:

- ***Counties Currently in PATH NC – The Temporary Process Change for PATH NC will not be available until Friday, October 3rd. Starting that day, please use the instructions attached to this letter. Please do not attempt to use these instructions prior to October 3rd.***
- ***Counties Currently in CWIS – Starting October 1st, please upload the new letters into CWIS.***

Next Steps:

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

- Tuesday, October 21st 1-2pm: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9092440443412320607>
- Thursday, October 24th 11-12pm: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/47535636420027225>

A recording and Frequently Asked Questions will be available following the live sessions.

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If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Child Welfare Specialist.

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

ATTACHMENT: [PATH NC_Instructions_Reporter Letters]

AMMENDED: CWS-67-25

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