



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

November 28, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: NC DSS PLAN OF SAFE CARE FORM (DSS-6191)

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

When infants are born with and identified as being affected by substances, the development of a Plan of Safe Care (POSC) is required to ensure the safety and well-being of such infants following their release from health care providers. Comprehensive POSCs should address the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of both the infant and affected family or caregiver. When there is an associated report of maltreatment, local DSS Child Welfare are responsible for the development of POSC with families.

To help support Child Welfare workers, supervisors, program managers and administrators' efforts in developing comprehensive POSCs with their families, NC DHHS has created a statewide form highlighting planning areas to ensure safety and reduce risk for substance affected infants. The NCDSS POSC Form (DSS-6191) is designed to supplement the NC Safety Assessment (DSS-5231) and referral for CMARC Services (DSS-1404).

The NCDSS POSC form has been developed to capture information on the infant, parents, and other household members along with conversation prompts, plans, services, and resources necessary to address safety and well-being needs. An important part of family and safety-centered practice is helping the family build and strengthen a safety network—made up of family, friends, and involved professionals.

The NCDSS POSC Form provides a framework for the family's safety network within the context of substance use factors. The form serves as a living document throughout the life of the child welfare case, but also as a support for caregivers to continue to develop and maintain a safety plan for their child even after professional services end or are no longer needed.

The new POSC form has been posted to the DHHS forms page and is also attached to this notice. ***The NCDSS POSC form standardizes the elements that must be addressed in a POSC to meet Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requirements and is the required form for POSC.*** Please begin utilizing this form immediately in all Child Protective Services substance affected infant cases, in place of any County developed POSC forms.

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

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If there are any questions regarding the new NCDSS POSC form, please contact Jadie Baldwin-Hamm at jadie.baldwin@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathy P. Stone

Kathy Stone

Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
North Carolina Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory