



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2408 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Director
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal,
(919) 733-3055

May 20, 2003

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Child Protective Services Social Workers
Child Protective Services Supervisors

Subject: Change to Child Medical Evaluation Program Consent/Authorization for
Medical/Mental Health Evaluation Form (DSS 5143, revised 4/99)

As a result of passage of the federal Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (**HIPPA**), the Child Medical Evaluation Program's Consent/Authorization for Medical/Mental Health Evaluation Form (**DSS 5143**) has been revised to comply with the newly implemented privacy regulations.

The revised language is found on the first page of the form in Part I, Section C, under the block designating whether the evaluation is to be a medical or mental health evaluation. The new language is as follows:

Furthermore, I authorize _____ to release the findings of the evaluation(s) to the county department of social services, the Child Medical Evaluation Program, and any agency or individual deemed necessary by the county department of social services.

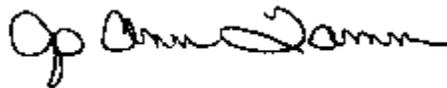
As you know, **only** county Departments of Social Services can request Child Medical/Mental Health Evaluations of children during CPS investigative assessments. These evaluations are conducted by qualified examiners who are rostered with the Program. The revised language in the Consent/Authorization form ensures that the examiner is given permission to disclose any information to the county Department of Social Services, to the Child Medical/Mental Health Evaluation Program and any other entity that the county DSS deems necessary.

The new forms are found on the Children's Services Website at:

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If you have questions about the HIPPA regulations, you may contact John Saxon at the North Carolina Institute of Government at (919) 966-5381. If you have questions about the DSS 5143, contact either the Child Medical Evaluation Program at (919) 843-9365, or Hope Hunt, Work First/CPS Policy Team, at (919) 733-4622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn Lamm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "JoAnn" and the last name "Lamm" clearly distinguishable.

JoAnn Lamm, Program Administrator
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

JAL/ehh

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Programs Representatives
Child Medical Evaluation Program

CS-13-03