



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

February 10, 2023

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

**SUBJECT: HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH AWARENESS AND RESOURCES**

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

According to the [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#), children and youth impacted by the child welfare system are at a higher risk for human trafficking due to issues such as potentially unstable living situations, experiences of abuse and neglect, emotional vulnerability, and disrupted support systems. In addition, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) finds that 1 in 6 of the children reported missing who had run away were likely child sex trafficking victims. As a result, ACF recently released new resources to assist child welfare agencies and community providers in strengthening the child welfare response to human trafficking.

Below are several websites, webinars, trainings, and resources that can assist child welfare agencies in strengthening response to human trafficking.

*Federal Resources:*

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):  
<https://www.missingkids.org/home>
- NCMEC assistance with removing sexually exploitive images or videos removed from the internet: <https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/isyousexPLICITcontentoutthere>
- ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP): <https://acf.hhs.gov/otip>
- Online Training through OTIP: Responding to Human Trafficking Through the Child Welfare System:  
[https://www.train.org/main/course/1107319/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=acfttraffickingresource011823](https://www.train.org/main/course/1107319/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=acfttraffickingresource011823)
- Online Training through National Center for Missing and Exploited Children "Missing From Care: Preventing and Responding to Sex Trafficking of Youth":  
<https://cantasd.acf.hhs.gov/topic-areas/trauma-and-healing/missing-from-care-preventing-and-responding-to-sex-trafficking-of-youth/>
- Resource from OTP to assist unaccompanied children who have experienced trafficking to be eligible for benefits such as case-management, medical services, food assistance, cash assistance, health insurance, and other needs to the same extent as a refugee:  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/child-eligibility-letters>

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

North Carolina Resources:

- NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault: <https://nccasa.org/>
- NC Human Trafficking Resource Directory: <https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/inline-files/NC-HTC-Resource-Directory-10212020.pdf>

Please refer to the NCDSS Cross Functions Manual (<https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/child-welfare/policy-manuals/cross-function.pdf>) for information on NC statute, policy, and best practices related to human trafficking.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the safety, well-being, and permanency of children and youth in North Carolina's child welfare system. Should you have questions, please contact Jessica Frisina at [Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

*Carla McNeill*

Carla McNeill  
Section Chief for Permanency Planning  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human  
Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for Human Services  
Lisa Tucker 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  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services  
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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