



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

May 18, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: PERMANENCY PLANNING POLICY UPDATES

REQUIRED ACTION: Immediate Time Sensitive Information Only

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF PERMANENCY PLANNING POLICY UPDATES

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is committed to providing counties with protocol and guidance to support compliance with the law and best practice of child welfare services. There were changes to the law regarding child welfare during the 2021 legislative season. Session Law 2021-132 was enacted on October 1, 2021. This law addresses safe and appropriate placement for children in need of mental health services including the roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Team. The Permanency Planning Manual has been updated to reflect these changes to the law. Additionally, and in the interest of clear instructions, a DSS form (DSS-6190) has been created for counties to utilize when making referrals to the Rapid Response Team.

The policy was published May 18th, 2022 and can be found on the Division's web page at <https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/child-welfare/policy-manuals>.

The revised changes in the Permanency Manual are as follows:

- Requirements when a juvenile in the custody of the Department of Social Services presents to a hospital emergency department for mental health treatment
- Referral process to the Rapid Response Team
- Court procedure for an emergency motion for placement and payment

The associated DSS form ([DSS-6190](#)) was published May 16th, 2022, on the Division's web page at <https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/forms>.

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Next Steps:

To assist with the implementation of the recent policy changes, two *new* Permanency Planning: Policy to Practice Office Hour workgroup sessions have been added. County child welfare staff may sign up using the below links:

July 28th, 2022, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/923428562064745986>

July 28th, 2022, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/9223064596541253890>

If you are unable to attend, you may access the recorded webinar online following the workgroup session at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/county-staff-information/policy-office-hours>.

Thank you for your interest and ongoing commitment to North Carolina's children. Should you have questions regarding the policy changes or the new DSS form (DSS-6190), please contact Margaret Knight at margaret.knight@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
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North Carolina Department of Health and Human
Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director of Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Operations/Licensing Regulatory
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
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CWS-27-2022