



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

June 1, 2023

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE RESOURCES FOR FIREARM SAFETY

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

The NC Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is committed to providing counties with resources to support child welfare workers in their work to ensure safety for children when there are firearms in the home. Firearms safety is an important component in safeguarding a home for children. North Carolina Statute requires all adults to keep firearms secured when children are present. Child welfare workers are required to ensure this statute is followed for all families impacted by the child welfare system.

A guidance document has been developed to assist county child welfare agencies on how to address firearm safety across the continuum of child welfare services. It includes resources for social workers as well as information specific to that addresses intake screening, child welfare assessments, in home and foster care services. The additional guidance provides county child welfare workers a comprehensive overview of how to address firearms when they are a safety factor.

The guidance will be effective June 1, 2023 and it will be published under Child Welfare Practice Resources on the Division's webpage at <https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/child-welfare/policy-manuals/>. The Safety section will hold Office hours on Tuesday, **July 25, 2023, from 1-2pm** and Wednesday, **July 26, 2023, from 11-12pm**. Office hours will be provided to discuss all safety changes taking place and to answer questions. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Hubbard at Amanda.Hubbard@dhhs.nc.gov HS Program Consultant or your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,

Kathy Stone

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

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Carla McNeil, Section Chief for Prevention and Safety
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

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