



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

August 8, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: FOSTER CARE 18-21 POLICY UPDATES

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: UPDATES TO FOSTER CARE 18-21 POLICY

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is excited to announce the Foster Care 18-21 policy has been updated to bring the policy in alignment with federal changes and support county child welfare agencies in their diligent efforts to empower young adults through their transition to independence. Policy changes can be found in the Permanency Planning Services Policy, Protocol and Guidance Manual, pg. 208-232: <https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/document/permanency-planning/>.

NCDSS invites you to register to attend one of the following virtual office hour webinars scheduled to provide agencies with technical support regarding the Foster Care 18-21 policy updates. These sessions will be recorded.

Tuesday August 20, 2024, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6072807670141392733>

Wednesday August 21, 2024, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7395003387890890842>

Foster Care 18 to 21 and Adult Guardianship

For young adults who require additional support in the form of an adult guardian, it is not considered a conflict of interest for a young adult to participate in the Foster Care 18-21 program of the same county that holds guardianship of a young adult.

However, it is considered a conflict of interest for a DSS director to sign the VPA as the guardian for the young adult. If it is determined that a candidate for guardianship will also benefit from the continued support provided by Foster Care 18-21, consideration should be given to whether the young adult can sign the VPA on their own behalf. It is recommended that young adults in these instances be considered for limited guardianship.

For questions regarding adult guardianship please contact Guardianship Consultant with the Adult Services Section of Division of Social Services, Preston Craddock, preston.craddock@dhhs.nc.gov.

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: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

For more information regarding Adult Guardianship, refer to [DAAS Guardianship Manual](#).

For additional questions regarding Foster Care 18 to 21 please contact Sarah Phillips, Foster Care 18-21 State Coordinator, at sarah.phillips@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services
Ben Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Karey Perez, Deputy Director for Adult Services

CWS-65-2024

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: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER