



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

September 29, 2023

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, and LICENSED CHILD PLACING AGENCIES**

SUBJECT: DCDL_CWS_68_2023_HB 815: THE LOVING HOMES ACT

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

North Carolina Division of Social Services (NC DSS) is committed to ensuring that public and private agencies are provided with the guidance and support needed to assist in compliance with the law and best practice of child welfare services. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on HB 815, The Loving Homes Act.

The Loving Homes Act was passed in July 2023 to allow families with five children in their household to become licensed. Prior to this law, families with five children, even though otherwise qualified, would not have been able to become licensed foster parents because they would exceed the number of children allowed to be in a licensed foster home. The Loving Homes Act allows a waiver to be in place for families with five children to become licensed as a family foster home specifically for placement of two or more siblings. The North Carolina Administrative Code allows for exceptions for the five-child limit for current licensed foster families to keep siblings together.

The Loving Homes Act was scheduled to be effective on October 1, 2023, however, it will **NOT** be effective on October 1, 2023. A requirement of HB 815 is that the licensing changes must be a part of the North Carolina State IV-E Plan before it can be implemented. NC DSS is in the process of amending the State IV-E plan to include requirements of HB 815.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Jenny Millsaps, Foster Home Licensing Manager, at jenny.millsaps@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimaree Sanders

Kimaree Sanders, MSW, MPA
Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
REGULATORY and LICENSING SERVICES**

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services
Katherine Swanson, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Child Welfare
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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