



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

October 24, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: COURT REQUIREMENTS AND TITLE IV-E ELIGIBILITY

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

North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is providing guidance on court requirements and Title IV-E eligibility. The guidance is directed to the counties named in the September 28, 2024, Federal Major Disaster Declaration: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Unfortunately, there are no waivers or executive orders issued to change the court requirements for Title IV-E eligibility. The current eligibility requirements remain the same to include, but not limited to:

- Non-Secure orders (AOC-J-150) to obtain custody of a child, containing contrary to welfare language, placement authority, best interest, and a valid judge or designee's signature.
- The 7-day continuance hearing on the non-secure order must be held.
- Court findings for reasonable efforts towards the permanency plan completed every six months.

If there are concerns with obtaining the court requirements for Title IV-E eligibility, public agencies in the impacted areas should choose an alternative funding source other than Title IV-E funding. If there is a question regarding court processes or specific case issue with court and eligibility, please contact Beth Riley, Child Welfare Compliance and Eligibility Manager, at beth.riley@dhhs.nc.gov or call (336) 608-8322.

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-334-1123

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult, Regional Support
Adrian W. Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
William Rose, Lead Regional Director

CWS-80-2024