



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

November 1, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

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

In compliance with North Carolina's General Statutes, the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) reminds all counties of the obligation to keep all youth information **confidential**, including recruitment efforts for both foster and adoptive placements.

North Carolina law restricts who may advertise the placement for or adoption of a minor child. N.C.G.S. § 48-10-101(b) Only Department of Social Services, licensed agencies by the Department of Health and Human Services, or adoption facilitators are allowed under statute to advertise available children for adoption. An adoption facilitator is "an individual or a nonprofit entity that assists biological parents in locating and evaluating prospective adoptive parents **without charge**." N.C.G.S. 48-1-101(3a).

The law in N.C.G.S. § 48-3-205 prescribes that shared information with an identified prospective adoptive parent must be a written document containing the minor's date of birth, weight at birth and any other reasonably **non-identifying** information about the minor that is relevant to the adoption decision or the minor's development and well-being.

County agencies should never release confidential information to post on an external email or listserv. According to NCGS § 48-10-105, it is a misdemeanor for a person to knowingly release unauthorized information.

A list of NCDSS child placement agencies is available at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/child-welfare-services/licensing/child-placing-agency-licensing>.

If the county child welfare licensing worker has difficulty with a foster home placement due to a child's intense medical or mental health needs, the case must be elevated to the Rapid Response Team (RRT) at rapid.response.behavioralhealth@dhhs.nc.gov.

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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

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NC Kids is the official adoption exchange program in the State of North Carolina. It is housed at the NC Division of Social Services and monitors and supports county agencies in their adoptive recruitment: [NC KIDS Information](#). County agencies must submit a registration packet or an exemption request within 30-days of the youth becoming legally free for adoption to the NC Kids program.

For questions on recruitment support, please contact your agency's NC Kids Consultant Jessica Johnson at 919-770-3971, Jessica.Johnson@dhhs.nc.gov or contact Jessica Farmer at 919-527-7269, Jessica.Farmer@dhhs.nc.gov.

- Jessica Johnson's Counties: Alamance-Lincoln
- Jessica Farmer's Counties: Macon-Yancey + Dare, Guilford, and Franklin

For questions on qualifications to provide advertising services, please contact your regional specialist.

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, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult, Regional Support
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Ben Rose, Lead Regional Director
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations

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