



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

May 12, 2020

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF PRIVATE PROVIDER AGENCIES**

ATTENTION: Directors, Program Managers and Foster Home Licensing Managers

SUBJECT: Licensing requirement updates

REQUIRED ACTION: ___ Information Only __x__ Time Sensitive __x__ Immediate

As we continue to work together to address issues related to licensing under the public health crisis stay-at-home order, we want to take this opportunity to provide the following updates.

Foster Home Licensing Pre-Service Training

The Division recognizes the importance of your ability to continue to engage, train, and assess new foster families. We have been in communication with The Children's Alliance of Kansas, the owners of the TIPS-MAPP, Caring For Our Own, and Deciding Together curriculums, to establish a way forward to provide pre-service training for prospective foster parents using virtual technology.

The Children's Alliance of Kansas has approved the use of virtual technology to deliver Deciding Together for prospective foster parents. Since Deciding Together is designed to be delivered one-on-one and provides bookwork instead of in-person activities, it is better suited to be completed virtually. Permission to provide Deciding Together virtually is only allowed during the public health crisis. At this time, the TIPS-MAPP program and the Caring For Our Own program cannot be delivered virtually. To provide additional support in this endeavor, NC DSS has received special permission to deliver the Deciding Together Leader certification training on a virtual platform.

Additional information and guidance on how to implement virtual Deciding Together and leader certification training are attached. Included in the guidance document is a survey that NCDSS will utilize to assess the statewide demand for Deciding Together Leader certification.

If your agency uses another approved pre-service curriculum and you are seeking to conduct the training virtually, please submit your written proposal for implementation to your assigned agency program consultant for approval.

Quarterly visits

During informational webinars held on April 17, 2020, a question regarding the need for a waiver for county DSS supervising agencies for the quarterly licensing compliance visits to take place

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: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

virtually, rather than face-to-face, was raised. The decision has been made that all county DSS supervising agencies should complete the waiver request for this requirement, 10A NCAC 70E .1113 LICENSING COMPLIANCE VISITS. The pre-populated waiver request form is attached. The form should be completed and emailed to Jodi Franck at Jodi.Franck@dhhs.nc.gov (828-232-3175) for approval. One waiver request covers the agency. A waiver is not required for each foster family.

Fingerprint requirements

On April 15, 2020 the Administration for Children and Families provided direction to the states for flexibility regarding the requirement for fingerprint based criminal records checks. This flexibility in the federal requirements allows the use of name based criminal record checks during the public health state of emergency as they apply to the IV-E funding requirements; however, North Carolina requirements for fingerprint based criminal records checks remain a barrier. NC DHHS is currently working to address this issue. Some law enforcement offices are collecting fingerprints. Please contact your local office for current information.

We recognize that barriers to completing foster home licensing requirements persist, but we encourage you to continue to engage prospective foster families to the greatest extent possible.

We appreciate your patience as we work to provide consistent and comprehensive information. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Program Consultant or Linda Waite at linda.waite@dhhs.nc.gov or 704-341-7300.

As always, thank you for your dedication to serving children and families.

Sincerely,



Lisa Cauley, Deputy Director Child Welfare Services

Cc: Susan G. Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Linda Waite, Regulatory and Licensing Program Administrator
Jodi Franck, Foster Home Licensing Manager

Attachment: Pre-populated waiver request form – quarterly licensing visit
TIPS-MAPP training guidance

CWS-12-20