



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Social Services

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS  
  
Wayne E. Black  
Division Director

**August 17, 2013**

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF PRIVATE CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES FOR FOSTER CARE**

**ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, FOSTER CARE SUPERVISORS AND FOSTER HOME LICENSING SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: ONLINE ORIENTATION FOR PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS**

The North Carolina Division of Social Services in partnership with the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC School of Social Work has developed an online orientation for prospective foster parents. This orientation covers many basic issues that will assist individuals in making decisions about becoming licensed foster parents in North Carolina. The information is applicable to both public and private agencies as well as family foster care and therapeutic foster care. This orientation complements and does not replace the face-to-face orientation provided by supervising agencies. The orientation can be found at this link (<https://www.ncswlearn.org/>). A flyer is attached that provides more information about the online orientation.

Please note that effective immediately prospective foster parents must complete the online orientation before they can become licensed. If they haven't completed the orientation before they contact your agency, ask them to complete the orientation on their own or on a computer at your agency. Place a copy of their certificate of completion in their training record. This certificate does not have to be submitted to the Licensing Office at Black Mountain but it must be maintained in the training record of the foster parent.

Please also remember that several years ago the Division of Social Services made the Jimmy Wayne video ("Foster Hope, Foster Love, Foster Families") available to all supervising agencies. Jimmy Wayne is a country star who spent time in foster care in North Carolina and the video chronicles his experience in foster care. The video is now available on You Tube at this link (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6UGSkwFvYM&feature=youtu.be>). We strongly recommend that prospective foster parents also view this video.

Child Welfare Services

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.ncdhhs.gov/dss](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss)

Tel 828-669-3388 • Fax 828-669-3365

Location: Building 17 • 952 Old U.S. 70 Highway • Black Mountain, NC 28711

Mailing Address: • 952 Old U.S. 70 Highway • Black Mountain, NC 28711

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If you have any questions about the online orientation please contact the Foster Home Licensing Office at (828) 669-3388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kevin Kelley, Section Chief  
Child Welfare Services

cc: Wayne Black, DSS Director  
Jack Rogers, DSS Deputy Director  
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders

CWS-13-2013