

Announcement

August 1, 2013

Attention: Professionals responsible for recruiting and training North Carolina foster parents (includes agency directors, supervisors, and line staff from public and private child-placing agencies)

Subject: New online orientation for prospective North Carolina foster parents

The NC Division of Social Services has launched a new resource to support foster parent recruitment and training. In partnership with the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, the NC Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, and representatives from public and private agencies, the Division has developed an online orientation that sends a helpful, consistent, and inspiring message to families considering providing therapeutic or family foster care.

Note: this online orientation is not designed to be comprehensive. It is intended to complement—not replace—the face-to-face orientations that supervising agencies currently offer to prospective applicants.

Called “Orientation for NC Foster Parents,” this new online learning resource is:

- **Brief and Easy to Find.** This 15-minute course shares basic information about foster care, describes the children in need of foster homes, introduces the foster home licensing process in North Carolina, and connects families with potential supervising agencies. The orientation can be found at <https://www.ncswlearn.org/>. It can also be accessed through a link found on the main page of the Division’s online learning portal: <http://www.ncswLearn.org>. Anyone can take this orientation.
- **Accessible.** To take the online orientation your computer must have: (1) external speakers or headphones; (2) broadband Internet access; (3) the latest version of Adobe Flash Player.
- **Interactive and Fun.** The orientation uses short video clips, handouts, web links, and activities that engage people in what is being taught. At the end, learners are asked to print out a certificate of completion to share with the supervising agency they select.
- **Required.** If prospective foster parents haven’t already completed the orientation when they show up at your agency, ask them to complete the orientation on their own or on a computer at your agency. Place their certificate of completion in their training record.

We have developed a simple flyer to make it easy for you to communicate with prospective foster parents about this orientation; you’ll find it on the next page.

We are excited to have this new resource, which we believe will promote statewide consistency in the licensing process and quality in the families recommended for licensure.

IMPORTANT REQUEST

To ensure anyone considering foster parenting in North Carolina can find this orientation, the Division asks you to please add a link to the orientation to your agency’s website.

If you have questions about the online “Orientation for NC Foster Parents,” please contact the Regulatory and Licensing Services Office at 828/669-3388.

Thinking of becoming a foster parent? Then take the . . .



<http://ncswlearn.org/foster>

NC's Online Orientation . . .

A key step for those considering foster parenting

- **Easy to Find.** Simply go to <http://ncswlearn.org/foster>.
- **Fast!** Takes just 15 minutes. No registration required. Just go to <http://ncswlearn.org/foster> and begin.
- **Super Helpful.** Explains foster care, describes the children in need of foster homes, and tells you how to take the next step to becoming a licensed foster parent in North Carolina.
- **Certificate of Completion.** At the end, print your certificate of completion and share it with the foster care agency you choose to work with.

"Orientation for NC Foster Parents" was developed by the NC Division of Social Services in partnership with the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, the NC Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, and North Carolina's foster care agencies.