

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
WAYNE E. BLACK • Director

June 15, 2018

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Directors, Program Managers and Child Welfare Professionals

SUBJECT: INTAKE POLICY ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1ST

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this letter is to provide county child welfare agencies with background information related to the Modified Child Welfare Manual Intake Policy related to human trafficking.

POLICY CHANGE BACKGROUND

The Division of Social Services (DSS) recognizes that human trafficking is a complex problem that requires thorough and ongoing efforts to address, particularly as it relates to the child welfare system and the protection of children and youth who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked. Since child protective services intake is the entry point into the child welfare system, a thorough intake interview is imperative. In addition, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 requires child welfare agencies to have in place provisions and procedures for identifying and assessing reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of human trafficking and to provide services for children who are trafficking victims.

To that end, DSS has made changes to the Modified Child Welfare Manual Intake Policy related to human trafficking to provide clearer protocol and guidance for the intake and screening of reports involving human trafficking.

Protocol was also added to specify that when child welfare agencies receive reports alleging the human trafficking of a child or children by a parent, guardian, custodian, caretaker, or non-caretaker, the agency must provide appropriate information and resources to the reporter. This provision was added to help meet the requirements of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act to provide services to children who are trafficking victims. DSS has provided a list of services and resources by county, which is attached to this letter and can also be located here: <https://nccwta.org/index.php?/Knowledgebase/Article/View/2/12/nc-child-welfare-manual>.

For full details on these changes to the policy, please review the attached Change Notice and the updated policy.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

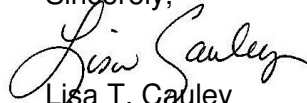
LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2408 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2408
www.ncdhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-715-6714

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

These changes become effective August 1, 2018. On June 18, 2018 the intake revisions regarding human trafficking will be available for NCFAST pilot and expanded pilot counties. These counties have the choice to utilize the human trafficking questions under the universal screening section until August 1, 2018.

If you have any questions about this letter or the changes to intake policy, please contact the Child Welfare Policy Team at 919-527-6340 or your Children's Program Representative.

Sincerely,



Lisa T. Cauley
Deputy Director for Child Welfare
Division of Social Services

cc: Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services
Wayne Black, Director of Social Services
Kristin O'Connor, Section Chief for Policy and Programs
Betty Kelly, Policy Team Program Administrator

Attachments: CWS-CN-01-2018
Modified Child Welfare Manual
DSS-1402 CPS Intake Report
DSS-1402 CPS Intake Report Instructions
Service Providers and Other Referrals List

CWS-22-2018