



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2439
Courier # 56-20-25-MS# 2439

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

September 1, 2009

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PRIVATE CHILD-PLACING AGENCY

SUBJECT: SMOKING IN FOSTER HOMES

The Division of Social Services is assessing the prevalence of smoking in all licensed foster homes. Foster parents will receive a survey instrument seeking information about smoking and the impact of restrictions related to smoking on their willingness to continue to serve as foster parents. Foster parents will have the option of two methods to complete the survey. They may either complete online, via a web-based instrument, or can complete a paper version and mail this to their supervising agency. Your assistance is needed in the aggregation of the paper submitted surveys. A MS Excel spreadsheet will be passed to your agency to be used to tabulate the paper submitted surveys. Alternatively, you may enter the paper submissions through the web-based survey. The Division will in turn aggregate the excel spreadsheets along with the web submitted surveys for a statewide collection of the information. Our agency will send out to each agency the final compiled data for foster homes supervised by that agency.

Changes are being made to the foster parent-training curriculum that will address the effects of secondhand smoke on infants, children and youth. Additionally, resources will also be made available to licensing agencies as well as directly to foster parents to help them quit smoking.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions please contact Cindy Norton at the Regulatory and Licensing Services Office at 828-669-3388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charisse S. Johnson".

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Sarah Barham
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Children's Services Program Representatives
Local Business Liaisons
Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants

CWS-32-09