



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2409 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2409  
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director  
(919) 733-3055

August 5, 2005

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

Attention: Adoption & Foster Care Supervisors  
Adoption & Foster Care Social Workers

Subject: **REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN WHO ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION WITH THE  
ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE-NCKIDS**

The Division wants to emphasize the importance of making sure that all children who are legally free for adoption are listed on the Adoption Resource Exchange within 30 days of being legally free for adoption, unless a permanent family has been identified. In our work with the General Assembly and with other state agencies and advocates, the fact that children are not registered continues to be viewed as one of the many barriers to adoption. We are currently being challenged by advocates inquiring if agencies are following Adoption policy and Standard #94 that states, "The child must be listed on the Adoption Resource Exchange within 30 days of being legally free for adoption, unless a permanent family has been identified." For several years we have contracted with NCKids to assist in getting children registered, but the problem persists. Even the involvement of CPRs has not remedied the problem. In an effort to focus more attention on this program area, the Division has assigned staff to work with NCKids, the CPRs, and counties to assure that this barrier to adoption is removed. There remains many barriers to adoption, some of which the agencies have no control, but this is one that we can address.

Beginning in September, Phyllis Fulton who works with Challenge for Children, will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring each child who is listed on the PQA300 as "Available for Adoption". If the child is not registered, the county will be contacted and reasons for the child not being registered with NCKids must be documented. We have heard from some of you that the information on the PQA300 is not always accurate so we will be working with counties to remedy this situation. You will be hearing more about this in the near future.

We all are concerned about making permanency a reality of all children. Your cooperation in our efforts to remove this barrier will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Esther High @ 919-733-9464 or [Esther.High@ncmail.net](mailto:Esther.High@ncmail.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Lamm".

Jo Ann Lamm, Section Chief  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

cc: Pheon Beal  
Sherry Bradsher  
FSCWS Team Leaders  
Children's Programs & Work First Reps  
NC KIDS

*FSCWS-33-05*