



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603  
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

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

September 16, 2008

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DEAR PRIVATE CHILD-PLACING AGENCY DIRECTOR**

**ATTENTION: Child Welfare Program Managers and Supervisors**


**SUBJECT: Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care**

As part of North Carolina's 2008 Child Welfare Reform Program Improvement Plan it is necessary to address absence of maltreatment in foster care. The national standard of absence of maltreatment (no substantiated report of abuse or neglect) of children in foster care by a foster parent or other caregiver during the 12 month period of our Child and Family Services review was 99.68%. The percentage of North Carolina children who were not victims of maltreatment in foster care during this time frame was 99.25%.

The Division of Social Services has developed a process to review substantiated cases of abuse and neglect involving foster parents or other out-of-home caregivers. The attached documents have been developed to assist in gathering information related to substantiations. Please note that Form A will be completed by the Children's Program Representative or Licensing Consultant assigned to your agency. Form B will be completed by the county department of social services or private child-placing agency supervising the foster home. The Division of Social Services will enter this information into a data base where indicators and trends will be tracked. This information will assist in identifying training needs as well as areas where policies and rules need to be strengthened.

The effective date for beginning this process is July 1, 2008. It is critical that county departments of social services report substantiations of foster parents as well as caregivers in residential child-care to the Licensing Office at Black Mountain. See Chapter V. Jurisdiction in Child Welfare, Section III. CPS Assessments. The Children's Program Representative or Licensing Consultant assigned to your agency will contact you or your designee to review cases substantiated in July 2008. County departments of social services should direct questions about this process to the Children's Program Representative assigned to your agency. Private child-placing agencies should direct questions to the Licensing Consultant assigned to your agency.

Sincerely,



Charisse S. Johnson, Chief  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

Attachments:

[Substantiaion Foster Home Form A](#)

[Substantiation Foster Care Review Supplemental Form-B](#)

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher  
Jo Ann Lamm  
Sarah Barham  
Local Business Liaisons Managers  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders  
Children's Services Program Representatives  
Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants

**FSCWS-56-08**