



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

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director

August 24, 2007

Dear County Director of Social Services

Dear Private Agency Director

Attention: Child Welfare Supervisors and Licensing Staff

Subject: Foster Home Licensing Rules

We are pleased to announce that new foster home licensing rules are effective September 1, 2007. The Social Services Commission endorsed the rules on July 18, 2007 and the Rules Review Commission gave their approval on August 23, 2007. This process began in December 2004 and involved foster parents, foster youth, staff from public and private agencies, university partners, representatives from the Division of Social Services, Division of Medical Assistance, Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse, Division of Health Service Regulation, Office of the Controller, the Children and Family Services Association and the Provider's Council.

The new rules are located in North Carolina Administrative Code (10A NCAC 70E .0600 – .1117). Rules that were located in 10A NCAC 70E .0100 – .0512 are now obsolete. The new licensing rules can be found at the Division of Social Services licensing web site (<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/licensing/>). Click on **FOSTER CARE RULES**. At this site you will find this letter, the new rules (10A NCAC 70E .0600—.1117), Attachment A (explanation of new rules), Attachment B (foster home licensing forms—please note that application packets will be returned to agencies that do not use the revised forms) and a Supplemental Guide to Foster Home Licensing. This guide was developed by the Jordan Institute for Families, UNC School of Social Work and provides guidance related to best practice in licensing North Carolina foster homes. This site also has updates of the various licensing packets.

Please note that policy found in Chapter IV, 1213, Standards and Procedures for Licensure is obsolete. You will need to refer to licensure rules and guidance found in Attachment A and the Supplemental Guide to Foster Home Licensing. The Division of Social Services will soon begin the process of updating Chapter IV, 1213, Standards and Procedures for Licensure.

Foster home licensing consultants will conduct forums in several locations throughout the state in early 2008 to discuss and review licensing rules. The dates, times and locations will be announced later. If you have questions related to the new rules we ask that you e-mail these to Rhoda Ammons (Rhoda.Ammons@ncmail.net) or Tara Foster (Tara.Foster@ncmail.net). Rhoda and Tara will develop a Question and Answer document that will be distributed to all agencies. Rhoda and Tara can also be reached at 828-669-3388.

Sincerely,



Esther T. High, Acting Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Section

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

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