



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  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

October 18, 2007

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: Adoption Supervisors**

**SUBJECT: Remove Barriers to Adoption for Residents of Other States (HB 865)**

Please accept this letter as notification of a revision to the Administrative Letter dated August 24, 2007, which stated "The child must be in the legal custody of a county DSS or licensed child placing agency when the adoption petition is filed". This statement is accurate for agency adoptions, but not a complete explanation of the residency requirement.

This act removes the residency requirement for adoptive parents in any adoption filed in North Carolina, if when the adoption petition is filed:

- 1) The adoptee has lived in this State for at least the six consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of the petition or **from birth**;
- 2) The prospective adoptive parent has lived in or been domiciled in this State for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of the petition; or
- 3) An agency licensed by this State or a county department of social services in this State has legal custody of the adoptee.

The adoptive parent(s) would have to meet only one of the above listed requirements to file a petition for adoption in North Carolina.

If you need additional information please contact Tammy Johnson, Program Manager, Adoption Review and Indexing at 919-733-3801.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther T. High".

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

**FSCWS-71-07**