



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

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Vos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

June 11, 2014

**Re: Sharing Fleeing Felon and Parole/Probation Violator
Status with Law Enforcement**

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Program Administrators and Supervisors
Food and Nutrition Services Administrators and Supervisors

The North Carolina General Assembly introduced and passed Session Law 2013-417, known as House Bill 392 (HB 392). The law requires a county department of social services to verify whether an applicant for or a recipient of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits or Work First Program assistance has a status of fleeing felon or parole/probation violator. If such status is determined, the applicant for or recipient of assistance shall be denied or terminated from said assistance.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, [Public Law 104-193](#) (PRWORA) amended both FNS and Work First program regulations to prohibit individuals from receiving assistance who are classified as fleeing felons or violating a condition of parole or probation. PRWORA directs FNS and Work First programs to provide a Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer with information about program recipients for whom there are outstanding warrants to assist in their apprehension.

In an effort to strengthen the collaboration with law enforcement, the Division contacted State Law Enforcement Agencies via the attached letter. The purpose of the letter is to inform and educate law enforcement agencies on the federally mandated protocols for sharing data contained within public assistance records.

In accordance with Federal law, law enforcement must provide, in writing, the department of social services agency with the name of the applicant or recipient and notify the agency that the individual is wanted in connection with a felony or violating terms of their parole or probation. FNS and Work First staff can then provide law enforcement with the applicant or recipient's current address. This information can also be provided to law enforcement if the officer informs the agency that the recipient or applicant has information that is necessary for the officer to conduct their official duties and the location or apprehension of the individual is within such official duties.

Economic and Family Services
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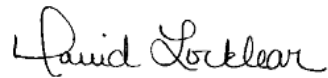
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The Division will continue to assist county departments of social services in developing collaborative procedures with law enforcement agencies and to ensure that confidentiality protocols are clearly defined and articulated to staff, customers and partnering agencies. The Division is committed to ensuring program assistance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of HB 392 which serve to promote the integrity of the FNS and Work First programs and the responsible stewardship of public funds.

Please refer to your respective program's policy manual for additional guidance. If you have questions regarding this information, please email Work.First.Support@dhhs.nc.gov or contact your FNS Regional Team via email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Locklear, Acting Chief
Economic and Family Services

Attachments (1)

EFS-WF-09-2014