

## **ADMIN LETTER # C.S. 4-02**

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**TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: FAMILY RISK RE-ASSESSMENT AND  
REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT TOOL SECTIONS**

**DATE: April 23, 2002**

**ATTENTION: Children's Services Supervisors**

**Children's Services Social Workers**

Effective April 1, 2002, we implemented a comprehensive set of assessment tools for use in children's services. The tools are intended to give us greater consistency and a more family-centered approach to working with families in contact with the child welfare system. We are very pleased with the receptivity of front-line and supervisory staff in county DSS agencies. The early feedback has strengthened our belief that the introduction of these tools is an important accomplishment for our system. We also recognize and appreciate that the tools represent a significant change, with the questions and issues that come with any major adjustment.

The complete set of the assessment tools can be accessed on the Children's Services web site at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/childrenservices/index.htm> The set of tools mailed to each agency on March 27, 2002 did not contain a complete set. Specifically, it did not contain a complete set of pages to the Family Risk Re-Assessment, Family Reunification Assessment, and Family Strengths and Needs Assessment tools. Consequently, we are sending a complete set of all tools with this letter.

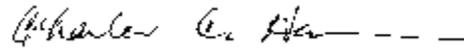
We are also attaching a reformatted version of the Safety Assessment instrument that Rowan County DSS has developed and agreed to share with other counties. In Rowan County's version, the definitions of the factors are placed on the same page as the safety factors. The Children's Services Committee asked that we make the reformatted version of the Safety Assessment available to all counties. You may use Rowan County's version or the version that was mailed to you on March 27, 2002 via Administrative

Letter #2-02. Please note that the instrument itself has not changed; only the formatting.

If you have questions about the Structured Decision-Making Assessment Tools or the Children's Services Standards for Service Delivery, please contact your CPR or the

Policy and Initiatives Team at  
(919) 733-4622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles C. Harris", followed by a horizontal line and three dashes.

Charles C. Harris  
Children's Services Section Chief

CCH/ehh

Attachments

[Safety Assessment](#)  
[Rowan Safety Assessment](#)  
[Family Risk Assessment of Abuse/Neglect](#)  
[Family Assessment of Strengths and Needs](#)  
[Case Decision Summary/Initial Case Plan](#)  
[Family Risk Reassessment of Abuse/Neglect](#)  
[Family Reunification Assessment](#)

cc: Pheon Beal  
Sherry Bradsher  
Children's Services Team Leaders  
Children's Programs Representatives