

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES #08-05

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT: 2005 FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD WELFARE
LEGISLATIVE
CHANGES**

DATE: September 28, 2005

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various Dates as Indicated

**ATTENTION: Work First and Children's Services Program Managers,
Supervisors, and Social Workers**

This administrative letter is to provide information regarding legislative actions during the 2005 session that impact the state-wide implementation of the Multiple Response System (MRS), Work First, Child Welfare, Adoption and Foster Care. New legislation as well as substantive clarifying changes to existing legislation is outlined. The effective dates of these laws vary and are indicated below.

It is important to remember that individual counties may not begin assigning reports to the family assessment response until the social workers conducting them have received the required MRS policy and Cornerstones 3A training. We encourage you not to begin conducting family assessments until after the first of the new year, even if your agency has staff that have received the required training.

There have been several changes that affect Foster Care and Adoption policy. Requirements for criminal background checks have been expanded, an additional grounds for terminating parental rights has been added, adoption procedures have been streamlined, juvenile court procedures have been clarified and expedited, and child custody and guardianship jurisdiction has been clarified.

The General Assembly has approved the North Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2007. Minimal changes were made to the TANF State Plan for this biennium.

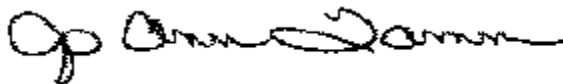
The statutes can be accessed through the North Carolina General Assembly's website at: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homePage.pl>

2005 Legislative Changes that Impact DSS Policy and Practice

Legislation	Description	Effective Date
S622 (SL 2005-276)	http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/PDF/S622v9.pdf	Enacted Budget 7/1/05
H 277 (SL 2005-55)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H277v4.html	Establish Child Assessment 10/1/05
H 451 (SL 2005-114)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H451v5.html	Adoptive Families DHHS/ Criminal Checks 6/24/05
H 97 (SL 2005-146)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H97v4.html	Terminate the rights of parent/ murder parent 6/30/05
H 532 (SL 2005-166)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H532v4.html	Adjust Adoption Procedure 10/1/05
H 806 (SL 2005-167)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S806v4.html	Mediation Amendment 7/7/05
H 1221 (SL 2005-228)	http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1221v7.html	Parenting Coordinator / DV 10/1/05
H 1209 (SL 2005-130)	http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1209v4.html	Sex. Battery / Sex Of. Registry 12/1/05
S 776 (SL 2005-226)	http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S776v6.html	Amend Indecent Exposure Law 12/1/05
S 1048 (SL 2005-414)	http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1048v5.html	Identify Theft Protection Act 12/1/05
H 661 (SL 2005-399)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H661v4.html	Responsible Inv. Expunction Process 10/1/05
H 801 (SL 2005-320)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H801v2.html	Child Custody/ guardianship 10/1/05
H 1150 (SL 2005-398)	http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1150v2.html	Expedite Juv. Court 10/1/05

Please contact your Work First Program Representative, Children's Program Representative or the Work First and CPS Policy Team at (919) 733-4622 if you have questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Lamm, Section Chief

Family Support and Child Welfare Services

JAL/ ttr

Attachments

cc: Pheon Beal

Sherry S. Bradsher

Sarah Barham

Local Business Liaisons

Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders

Children's Program Representatives

Work First Program Representatives