



Human Trafficking Child Welfare Policy Updates

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services | Child Welfare Section**

Agenda

- **Child Welfare Policy Updates**
- **Implementation Timeline**
- **Future Development Opportunities**

Child Welfare Policy Updates

- **Revisions to CPS Intake Policy include:**
 - Protocol for establishing authority to intervene.
 - Protocol for determination of response approach.
 - Protocol for reporter notification.
 - Revisions to the Human Trafficking Screening Tool.

Child Welfare Policy Updates

- **Revisions to CPS Assessment Policy include:**
 - Protocol for checking if a child has been reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NC Center for Missing Persons, or to local law enforcement.
 - Protocol for notifying US DHHS Office on Trafficking in Persons to facilitate the provision of services to foreign national children.
 - Protocol for providing information and resources on human trafficking to the child's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker.
 - Protocol for the use of the NC Safety Assessment in human trafficking cases.

Child Welfare Policy Updates

- **Creation of Cross-Function Topic:**
 - Protocol for notifying US DHHS Office on Trafficking in Persons to facilitate the provision of services to foreign national children.
 - Protocol for referring to other governmental or non-governmental organization advocates and agencies.
 - Practice guidance on indicators of human trafficking.
 - Practice guidance on the assessment of immediate needs.
 - Practice guidance on creating safe environments for survivors of trafficking

Implementation Timeline

- **8/20 - Release of Policy for Comment**
- **8/20 - 8/27 - Comment Period**
- **8/27 - 9/11 - Update Policy based on Comments**
- **9/12 - Full Manual with Revisions back to Counties via Children's Services Committee**
- **9/30 - Full Manual Published for effect on 10/1**

Future Development Opportunities

- **Practice guidance**
- **Further development of policy**
- **Input and collaboration**

Questions

Erin Conner, MSW
LINKS Program Coordinator
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare Section
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov