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Purpose and Philosophy		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
The Mission, Vision and Values	Updated language to reflect references to the Division, grammar and formatting.	Clarification
Multiple Response System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Parenting Meetings During the First 14 days of Placement Out of the Home 	Clarification to make consistent with revised policy.
Client Rights and Responsibilities Agency Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which requires recipients of Federal financial assistance to take reasonable steps to make their programs, services, and activities accessible for persons with limited English proficiency. If English is not the family’s primary language and the agency has difficulty communicating effectively in English, the agency is required to offer free interpreter service or document translation at no cost in order to have meaningful access to programs funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The agency must refer to the DSS-10001: Language Services Agreement and DSS-10001ins: Instructions for completing the DSS-10001 for providing interpreter services 	Federal legislation related to MEPA and Session Law 2019 – 240 https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2019-2020/SL2019-240.pdf
A Brief Historical Perspective of Child Protective Services	Added MEPA compliant language	Federal legislation related to MEPA and Session Law 2019 – 240 https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2019-2020/SL2019-240.pdf

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CPS INTAKE		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
Policy/Legal Basis	Revised definition of §7B-309 Immunity of persons reporting and cooperating in an assessment to include: provides information or assistance, including medical evaluations or consultation in connection with a report, investigation, or legal intervention pursuant to a good-faith report of child abuse or neglect:	Session Law 2019 – 240 https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2019-2020/SL2019-240.pdf
Definitions; Establishing the Authority to Intervene	<u>Caretaker</u> : Any person other than a parent, guardian, or custodian who has responsibility for the health and welfare of a juvenile in a residential setting. A person responsible for a juvenile's health and welfare means a stepparent, foster parent, potential adoptive parent when a juvenile is visiting or as a trial placement, an adult member of the juvenile's household, an adult relative entrusted with the juvenile's care, or any person such as a house parent or cottage parent who has primary responsibility for supervising a juvenile's health and welfare in a residential child care facility or residential educational facility, or any employee or volunteer of a division, institution, or school operated by the Department of Health and Human Services.	Session Law 2019- 245 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S199v9.pdf
Notifications	New requirements: G.S §7B-307 Duty of director to report evidence of abuse, neglect; investigation by local law enforcement; notification to	Session Law 2019- 201 Senate Bill 230 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S230v5.pdf

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<p>District Attorney / Law Enforcement Notification</p>	<p>appropriate military authority; notification of Department of Health and Human Services. If the director finds evidence that a juvenile may have been abused as defined by G.S. 7B-101, the director shall make an immediate oral and subsequent written report of the findings to the district attorney or the district attorney's designee and the appropriate local law enforcement agency, including notifying the appropriate military authority that there is evidence of abuse or neglect of a juvenile by a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker with that military affiliation.</p> <p>G.S. §14-318.6; Failure to report crimes against juveniles; penalty, provides definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Serious bodily injury (G.S. §14-318.4(d))b) Serious physical injury (G.S. §14-318.4(d))c) Sexually Violent Offense (G.S. §14-208.6(5)). This term also includes the following: an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses; aiding and abetting any of these offenses.d) Violent Offense <p>New guidance:</p>	
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	<p>The receipt of a report that is screened in is considered evidence that the alleged abuse or harm occurred.</p> <p>G.S. §14-318.6 also requires that any person 18 years of age or older who knows or should have reasonably known that a child has been a victim of a violent offense, sexual offense or misdemeanor child abuse, must immediately report that crime to the appropriate law enforcement agency. This applies to all screened in or screened out reports.</p>	
Notifications	<p>New Guidance: Added guidance under the Reporter notification section of CPS Intake to reference 7B-309 for specifics about immunity for those reporting or cooperating with a CPS report</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-240</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2019-2020/SL2019-240.pdf</p>

CPS Family and Investigative Assessment		
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<p>Checking Agency Records</p>	<p>As a part of a thorough CPS Assessment, the county child welfare services agency must:</p> <p>Check criminal records for all case participants who are 16 years of age or older and live in the home</p>	<p>This addition was made to provide clarification.</p>
<p>Safety Planning</p> <p>Use of TPSA with Parents & Caretakers</p> <p>Notification of the District Attorney and Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Removed the word relative from the caretaker flow chart.</p> <p>Added the requirement that the military authority associated with the alleged perpetrator also be notified.</p>	<p>Session Law 2019- 245</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S199v9.pdf</p> <p>Clarity under G.S. 7B-307</p>
<p>Special Categories of Cases Requiring a CPS Assessment</p> <p>Medical Neglect of Infants with Life-Threatening conditions</p>	<p>Legal Basis updated definition of neglect to add in “a minor victim of human trafficking”;</p>	<p>Clarification from legislative update in 2018. 7B-101(15)</p>
<p>MRS Requirements</p>	<p>Corrected the reference from Cross Function to Appendix 1 for RIL.</p> <p>Change in timeframe for the delivery of the notice: The county child welfare worker must make face-to-face contact with the alleged responsible individual after the case decision, in an expeditious manner, to explain the reason for the substantiation and to provide written notice of the potential for their name to be placed on the RIL.</p>	<p>Clarification and Session Law 2019-33</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>

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In-Home Services		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
Review of Services/Family Services Agreements	Guidance on page 25 indicates that in NC FAST “the goal for all IHS FSA’s automatically defaults to “Prevent Removal,” with a primary goal” and the language “and a concurrent goal is also required” is removed.	NC FAST does not require a concurrent goal and one is not necessary.
Required contact for In-Home Services Required Contacts Table	For High risk cases the observation of the relationships and interaction between parent/caretaker is now consistent with the policy section and correctly states that contact is now twice a month.	Clarity between this section and the policy section on page 20.

Permanency Planning		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
Permanency Planning Out of Home Family Services Agreement	To locate a parent that is in prison, contact the NC Department of Public Safety Prison Administration Office at 919-838-4000. Names and addresses for prison facilities can be found here. Public tools to search for offenders are available online through NC Department of Public Safety Criminal Offender	Department name and contact information was updated

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	Search feature. All inmates have a case manager or social worker that can assist in making contact.	
<p>Permanency Planning</p> <p>Parent/Child Visitation/Family Time</p> <p>Legal Basis</p>	<p>N.C.G.S. 7B-905.1 states if the juvenile is placed or continued in the custody or placement responsibility of a county department of social services, the court may order the director to arrange, facilitate, and supervise a visitation plan expressly approved or ordered by the court. The plan shall indicate the minimum frequency and length of visits and whether the visits shall be supervised. The county department of social services may also temporarily suspend visitation if there are safety related concerns and immediately motion for a hearing and request that a hearing be scheduled within 30 days. However, no motion or notice of hearing is required if a review or permanency planning hearing is already scheduled to be heard within 30 days of suspension.</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-33</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>
<p>Permanency Planning: Permanency Options</p> <p>Guidance</p>	<p>N.C.G.S. § 7B-600(c) If the court appoints an individual guardian of the person pursuant to this section, the court shall verify that the person being appointed as guardian of the juvenile understands the legal significance of the appointment and will have adequate resources to care appropriately for the juvenile. The fact that the prospective guardian has provided a stable placement for the juvenile for at least six consecutive months is evidence that the person has adequate resources.</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-33</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>
<p>Permanency Planning: Concurrent Planning</p> <p>Legal Basis</p>	<p>N.C.G.S. § 7B-906.2(b) states the court shall adopt concurrent permanent plans for each child in foster care and shall identify the primary plan and secondary plan. Reunification shall be a primary or secondary plan unless the court made findings under G.S. 7B-901 (c) or G.S. 7B-906.1(d)(3), the permanent plan is or has been achieved in accordance with subsection (a1) of this section, or the court makes written findings that reunification efforts clearly would be unsuccessful or would be inconsistent with the juvenile’s health or safety. Unless</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-33</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>

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	<p>reunification efforts were previously ceased, at each permanency planning hearing the court shall make a finding about whether the reunification efforts of the county department of social services were reasonable. N.C.S.G. § 7B-906.2(a1) states concurrent planning shall continue until a permanent plan is or has been achieved.</p>	
<p>Permanency Planning Foster Care 18 to 21 Education and Training Vouchers and NC Reach Adolescent Services: NC LINKS</p>	<p>Young adults participating in Foster Care 18 to 21 services may be eligible to receive Education/Training Vouchers (ETVs) and NC Reach Scholarships to defray the costs of attending postsecondary education or vocational training institutions.</p> <p>Note: Young adults who age out of NC foster care, were adopted from NC foster care, or exited NC foster care to a permanent home though the Guardianship Assistance Program may be eligible for Education/Training Vouchers and NC Reach Scholarships to defray the costs of attendance at post-secondary education or vocational training institutions.</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-240 https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2019-2020/SL2019-240.pdf</p>
<p>Permanency Planning Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and Foster Care 18-21</p>	<p>If the receiving state is unwilling to provide supervision and services through ICPC, the county child welfare agency is responsible for Foster Care 18 to 21 services and benefits are met on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Clarification unrelated to legislative change.</p>
<p>Permanency Planning Permanency Options: Adoption Guidance</p>	<p>Note: §7B-909.1 Relinquishment to a department of social services has been revised to now require that before a parent voluntarily signs a relinquishment that they be advised of their right to seek the advice of retained counsel and the right to have counsel present while executing the relinquishment. Retained counsel must also be notified by any reasonable and timely means of communication that the department has made arrangements for the parent to execute a relinquishment at a specific date, time and location. If the</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>

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	parent's counsel is unavailable, the notice must be given to the partner or employee at the attorney's office.	
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Cross Function Topics		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
Cross Function Juvenile Court: Juvenile Court Case Statutory Timeline	Day 180 Review of custody order must be held within 90 days of disposition with a subsequent review at least every six months thereafter	Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf
Cross Function Juvenile Court: Dispositional Hearing	Place the juvenile in the custody of a parent, relative, private agency offering placement services, or some other suitable person. If the court determines that the juvenile should be placed in the custody of an individual other than a parent, the court shall verify that the	Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf

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	<p>person receiving custody of the juvenile understands the legal significance of the placement and will have adequate resources to care appropriately for the juvenile. The fact that the prospective custodian has provided a stable placement for the juvenile for at least six consecutive months is evidence that the person has adequate resources,</p>	
<p>Cross Function Juvenile Court: Legal Guardianship</p>	<p>Persons assuming legal guardianship of children in the legal custody of the county child welfare agency are not eligible for state foster care board payments. They are eligible for child support paid by the parents. The child may also be eligible for Medicaid, since the guardian's income is not considered. Countable income includes Social Security benefits, child support payments and, if applicable guardianship subsidy. If a person accepts guardianship of a child who was receiving Child Placement Services and later adopts that child, he or she will be able to receive adoption assistance payments on behalf of the child until the child is 18 years of age. The fact that the prospective guardian has provided a stable placement for the juvenile for at least six consecutive months is evidence that the person has adequate resources.</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>

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Appendix 1		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
Definitions	Updated the definition of Responsible Individual to include those individuals responsible for trafficking the juvenile.	Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf
Page. 71 Case Decision Notification (RIL)	Changed the requirement to have face-to-face contact with the alleged responsible individual from within five business day to in an expeditious manner.	Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf
Persons Ineligible for judicial Review	Establishes that if the responsible individual is criminally convicted after the judicial review petition is filed, the court shall dismiss the petition with prejudice. Guidance added to define what dismissed with prejudice is.	Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf

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<p>Judicial Review Process</p>	<p>Added that when the Judicial Review hearing is closed, witnesses and law enforcement investigating the same allegations may still attend.</p> <p>Evidence that is admissible in Judicial Review hearings may now include child medical evaluations reports, child and family evaluation reports and/or other reports that the director relied upon to make the determination of abuse or serious neglect</p>	<p>Session Law 2019-33 https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H301v4.pdf</p>
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Interstate/Intercounty Services for Children		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
Various sections of the policy have been updated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of placements covered – identifies the four types of situations covered under Regulation 3 • Types of placements not covered – identifies the placement types that are not covered. • Regulation 0.01/Forms: ICPC-102 is optional • Regulation 1 - Relocation of Family Units – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the intent and applicability is clarified – Express mail is acceptable • Regulation 4- Residential Placement – Timeframe for final • Regulation 6 – Permission to place child: Time Limitations, Reapplication (renamed) • Regulation 7 – Expedited Placement Decision (renamed) • Regulation 9 – Definition of a visit amended • Regulation 10 – Guardians definition amended • decision added 	<p>Session Law 2019-172</p> <p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H469v7.pdf</p>

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Forms – Already posted		
Section	Policy, Protocol, Guidance	Justification
DSS-1802 Consent to Adoption by Parent, Guardian, or Guardian ad Litem of the Mother/Father	<p>11. That I have read or had read to me and understood this Consent, been advised that counseling services may be available through county departments of social services or licensed child-placing agencies, and been advised of the right to seek the advice of legal counsel;</p>	Session Law 2019-33; Form Changes
DSS-1803 Consent of Child for Adoption	<p>I further certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the adoptee executing the Consent:</p> <p>read, or had read to him or her, and understood the Consent; signed the Consent voluntarily; received an original or a copy of his or her fully Executed Consent; was advised that counseling services may be available through county departments of social services or licensed child-placing agencies; and was advised of the right to seek the advice of legal counsel before executing the Consent.</p>	Session Law 2019-33; Form Changes
DSS-1804 Relinquishment of Minor for Adoption	<p>11. That I have read or had read to me and understood this Relinquishment, been advised that counseling services are available through the agency to which the Relinquishment is</p>	

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	<p>given, and have been advised of the right to seek the advice of legal counsel;</p>	
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Miscellaneous		
Informational Purposes		
<p>House Bill 469; Change to Adoption Review process at the state office NCGS 48-9-102:</p>	<p>(d1) The Division, within 40 days after receipt of the record in subsection (d), shall conduct a limited review for the sole purpose of identifying any obvious error on the report to vital records that is prepared by the superior court clerk and to notify the clerk of the error. If the Division notifies the superior court clerk of an error in the report to vital records, then the clerk shall correct the report and return it to the Division within 10 days after receipt of the notice.</p> <p>(e) The Division shall, subject to the review in (d1), cause the papers and reports related to the proceeding to be permanently indexed and filed.</p> <p>(f) The Division shall, within 40 days after receiving it from the court, transmit a report of each adoption and any name change to the State Registrar if the adoptee was born in this State. In the case of an adoptee who was not born in this State, the Division shall, within 40 days after receiving it from the court, transmit the report and any name change to the appropriate official responsible for issuing birth certificates or their equivalent.</p>	<p>https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H469v7.pdf</p>