

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2009

MANUAL: FAMILY SERVICES MANUAL, VOLUME I; CHILDREN'S SERVICES, CHAPTER IV: CHILD PLACEMENT, SECTION 1201, ADOLESCENT SERVICES NC LINKS

CHANGE NO: 09-2009

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS
CHILD WELFARE SOCIAL WORKERS

RE: REVISION OF CHAPTER IV: CHILD PLACEMENT, SECTION 1201, ADOLESCENT SERVICES NC LINKS – RESULTING FROM FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS OF 2008; EMANCIPATION PLAN PROVISION

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

I. BACKGROUND / CHANGE INTENT

On October 7, 2008, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 ([Public Law 110-351](#)) was signed into law. DSS [Administrative Letter CWS-02-09](#) dated March 17, 2009 provides detailed information on the impact of this federal legislation to North Carolina's child welfare system. Attached to this letter is a new section of policy to be added to the Family Services Manual. This new policy and form (underlined and in red) brings North Carolina into compliance with one of the provisions outlined in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. The Services to Children and Families Committee of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services approved these changes on June 10, 2009 with the Executive Board providing final approval one day later.

II. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

[Family Services Manual; Volume I; Chapter IV; Section 1201; Adolescent Services: NC LINKS](#) provides policy and guidance on services to adolescents. The new policy describes the development of an Emancipation Plan with youth in care who are within 90 days of becoming 18 years of age. The Emancipation Plan outlines resources available to the youth and is attached to the youth's educational summary, health status reports, and personal documents that the youth will need as he or she transitions to adulthood. The plan and attachments are provided to the youth with a copy to be placed in the agency file.

Please ensure that all staff members who have child welfare responsibility are provided copies of this material or can access it via the NCDSS web site. The Division of Social Services on-line manual web address is: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss>.

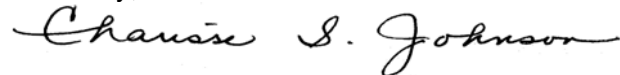
III. INSTRUCTIONS:

Obsolete	Utilize
North Carolina Family Services Manual: Volume I ; Chapter IV; Section 1201; Adolescent Services: NC LINKS - (Change #05-2008 Effective June 2008)	North Carolina Family Services Manual: Volume I; Chapter IV; Section 1201 ; Adolescent Services: NC LINKS (Change #09-2009 - Immediately)
	Plan for Emancipation from Foster Care Custody / Education Summary (DSS-5315)

These revisions to the manual are being sent via e-mail and will be posted on-line only. Hardcopies of this new policy and of this form will not be mailed to county Departments of Social Services.

Should you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact your Children's Program Representative or Danielle McConaga, Interim State LINKS Coordinator with the Policy and Consultation Team at (919) 334-1110.

Sincerely,



Charisse Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Hank Bowers
Sarah Barham
Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders
Children's Programs Representatives
Local Business Liaisons