

Greetings potential foster and adoptive families!

We are so excited that you are interested in finding out more about foster care and adoption services through Nash County Department of Social Services. The attached brochure gives you a couple quick definitions to help you understand what we talk about when we talk about foster care and when we talk about adoption. The brochure also gives you information about General Requirements for Foster and Adoptive Families. The requirements for fostering and adoption are pretty much the same but simply require that we gather information in different formats. We have enclosed the following documents that we hope will answer some of your questions about fostering and adopting!

- Foster Parent Licensing Standards *gives you general attributes and requirements for foster and adoptive families.*
- Subject: Online Orientation for Prospective Foster Parents: *This online orientation is required of all foster parents so please go to the website if you plan to pursue fostering or adopting and complete this short orientation. Print the certificate and provide to the social workers at the orientation meeting.*
- Nash County Standards for Approval of Adoptive Applicants *is policy regarding standards for approval as a foster/adoptive family in Nash County approved by the Nash DSS Social Services Board.*
- Notice: Foster Parent Mandatory Criminal History Check
- Notice: Prospective Adoptive Parents Mandatory Criminal History Check
- Standards Regarding Discipline of Children in Foster Care *and Side Effects of Physical Punishment. Note that Nash County does not allow physical punishment as a means of discipline. Foster parents must be willing to use other means of discipline.*
- Nash County Foster Care Resource and Information Sheet
- Selection Process for a Foster Family Requesting to Adopt a Foster Child Who Resides in their Home.
- Nash County Adoption Program Resource and Information Sheet
- Nash County DSS Adoption Fee Policy: *This is primarily of interest to persons wishing study for independent or relative adoptions. There is no fee for families who want to adopt children in the custody of the state.*
- North Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange/NC KIDS/adoptuskids
- Licensed Private Adoption Agencies in NC: *This information is included for families who want to adopt but may not be interested in children in the foster care system. We would recommend that families interested in infant adoptions explore other agencies as our agency rarely has the opportunity to place infants directly for adoption.*
- 2016 MAPP Schedule: *This provides dates of our next orientation meetings and training sessions.*
- Children in Need of Adoptive Families

We hope this information is helpful to you and answers some of your questions about foster care and adoption. Please feel free to contact us if to ask questions!

Foster Parent Licensing Standards

Foster parents are selected on the basis of having certain characteristics that will permit them to undertake the responsibility of caring for children. The characteristics include those who:

- a) Embody an attitude of care and responsiveness to/about others.
- b) Are able to give affection and unconditional positive regard to a child.
- c) Are able to give without expectation of return.
- d) Have time and patience for an additional family member.
- e) Enjoy being parents
- f) Have a satisfactory and stable marital relationship
- g) Have reputable characters, acceptable values and ethical standards
- h) Give evidence of flexibility
- i) Are able to accept, nurture and support a child's relationship with his parents and the agency

All members of the foster family must be in agreement with the decision to provide foster care services.

- ❖ You must be at least 21 years old.
- ❖ A physical exam is required on each member of the foster family household for initial licensing, and every other year thereafter. (Physical exams are at the foster family's expense)
- ❖ A TB skin test is required initially.
- ❖ A medical history form must be completed on each member of the foster family household.
- ❖ The foster family must have a stable income sufficient for their needs without dependency upon board payments.
- ❖ The foster home should provide the foster child opportunities for spiritual development and satisfying religious experience.
- ❖ Both foster parents may be employed if a suitable childcare plan has been approved by the agency.
- ❖ The foster home shall be of sufficient size to provide adequate living accommodations for family members.
- ❖ Each child must have their own bed. Foster children cannot share a bed.

- ❖ All homes must pass Fire and Building Inspection regulations. Homes must have smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher as recommended by the Fire Department.
- ❖ All homes must meet the Environmental Conditions Standards.
- ❖ Various types of criminal records check are completed on each household member over the age of thirteen and are updated bi-annually thereafter.
- ❖ Each adult member of the household has to be fingerprinted.
- ❖ Both foster parents must participate in our agency's thirty-hour Trauma Informed – Partnering for Safety and Permanence Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (TIPS-MAPP). Classes are taught two to three times a year in conjunction with the Edgecombe County Department of Social Services.
- ❖ Both foster parents must be willing to cooperate with and accept supervision from the Nash County Department of Social Services.
- ❖ References are required who can attest to the moral character and parenting skills of each applicant.
- ❖ Any adult member of the home aged 21 or older must complete MAPP if they will provide any care of children in the home.
- ❖ CPR, First Aid and Universal Precautions must be completed before any child can be placed in a foster home.

SUBJECT: ONLINE ORIENTATION FOR PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS

The North Carolina Division of Social Services in partnership with the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC School of Social Work has developed an online orientation for prospective foster parents. This orientation covers many basic issues that will assist individuals in making decisions about becoming licensed foster parents in North Carolina. The orientation can be found at this link:

<https://www.ncswlearn.org/>

Please note that effective immediately prospective foster parents must complete the online orientation before they can become licensed. If they haven't completed the orientation before they contact your agency, ask them to complete the orientation on their own or on a computer at your agency. Place a copy of their certificate of completion in their training record. This certificate does not have to be submitted to the Licensing Office at Black Mountain but it must be maintained in the training record of the foster parent.

Also available:

Jimmy Wayne is a country star who spent time in foster care in North Carolina and the video chronicles his experience in foster care. The video is now available on You Tube at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6UGSkwFvYM&feature=youtu.be>

We strongly recommend that prospective foster parents also view this video.



Nash County Standards for Approval of Adoptive Applicants

This guide is being created to document standards and policies that apply to adoption services provided in Nash County. Many decisions in regards to the approval or denial of adoptive applicants are left to the discretion of the county. For that reason, this guide is created to document standards and policies that are germane to the Nash County adoption program.

Families and individuals applying to foster/adopt through the Nash County Department of Social Services are evaluated on many areas of their family life. Our agency feels that certain standards are important in working to assure a stable and positive foster/adoptive placement for children in need of a home.

1. Potential foster/adoptive parents with previous felony convictions will not be considered for licensing or approval as an adoptive home, unless determined to be in the best interest of a child with whom the individual has a relationship. Approval as a foster/adoptive resource of those individuals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
2. Potential foster/adoptive parents with previous substantiated child protective service referrals will not be considered for approval, unless determined to be in the best interest of a child with whom the individual has a relationship. Approval of those individuals will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Potential foster/adoptive parents who are living together outside the bonds of marriage will not be considered for approval, unless it is determined to be in the best interest of a child with whom the individual has a relationship. Because of the chaotic and often unstable environment from which children in foster care are removed, it is felt the children need and deserve a stable home environment. Although marriage in and of itself does not guarantee a stable home environment, it does indicate a commitment from the partners to stay together and to work through the difficulties of life. Couples are required to be married a minimum of one year in order to be considered as foster/adoptive parents. This does not preclude single, non-cohabitating persons from being considered for approval. The State of North Carolina does not allow adoption by unmarried couples.
4. Knowing that financial difficulty provides much stress to families, as does the addition of a child to the home through foster care or adoption, the following policy is developed in an effort to protect both families and the children they care for:

- i. Couples or individuals who have filed bankruptcy prior to applying to foster/adopt, should have been discharged (or completed) the bankruptcy for at least one year prior to the application date.
- ii. If a family is currently approved/licensed as a foster/adoptive home and files bankruptcy, and has no children placed in the home, the home will be closed. The family may reapply at the point that the bankruptcy has been discharged (or completed) for one year.
- iii. If a family is currently approved/licensed as an adoptive/foster home and has children placed in the home, the situation will be evaluated and a determination made regarding what is in the best interest of the child/children in the home. If the decision is made to allow the adoptive/foster home to continue to provide care for the child residing in the home, monthly visits by the social worker will occur to assure that the needs of the child continue to be met.

5 When adoptive families are selected as *legal-risk* adoptive homes, they will be asked to sign an **Acknowledgement of Legal Risk Placement** form, which addresses the uncertainty of the placement and the fact that the agency's plan for the child might be adoption, but the agency is unable to guarantee that the child will be cleared for adoption.

6. In addition, when licensed foster to adopt homes are asked to provide temporary foster care for a child, they are asked to sign an **Acknowledgement of Temporary Nature of Placement** form, which acknowledges that the plan for the child placed in the home is NOT adoption and that the children may be removed from the home in order to be placed into another permanent placement with parents, relatives, etc.

Approved by Nash County Department of Social Service Board on October 25, 2004

Amended and approved by Nash County Social Services Board on October 31, 2011

Amended and approved by Nash County Social Services Board on October 27, 2014

Dan Davis, Chairman
Nash County Social Services Board

NOTICE

FOSTER PARENT MANDATORY CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

NORTH CAROLINA LAW REQUIRES THAT A CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK BE CONDUCTED ON ALL PERSONS WHO PROVIDE FOSTER CARE IN A LICENSED FAMILY FOSTER HOME.

“Criminal history” includes any county, state, and federal convictions or pending indictments of any crime, of any of the following crimes: the following Articles of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes: Article 6, Homicide; Article 7A, Rape and Kindred Offences; Article 8, Assaults; Article 10, Kidnapping and Abduction; Article 13, Malicious Injury or Damage by Use of Explosive or Incendiary Device or Material; Article 26, Offences Against Public Morality and Decency; Article 27, Prostitution; Article 39, Protection of Minors; Article 40, Protection of the Family; and Article 59, Public Intoxication; violation of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, and alcohol-related offenses such as sale to underage persons in violation of G.S. 18-B-302 or driving while impaired in violation of G.S. 20-138.1 through G.S. 20-138.5; or similar crimes under the federal law or under the laws of other states. Your fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

If it is determined, based on your criminal history, that you are unfit to have responsibility for the safety or well-being of children, you shall have the opportunity to complete, or challenge the accuracy of, the information contained in the SBI or FBI identification records.

If you are denied licensure or your foster home license is revoked by the Department of Human Resources as a result of the criminal history check, you may request a hearing pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, the Administrative Procedure Act.

Any foster parent who intentionally falsifies any information required to be furnished to conduct the criminal history is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

NOTICE

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS MANDATORY CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

NORTH CAROLINA LAW REQUIRES THAT A CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK BE CONDUCTED PRIOR TO PLACEMENT ON PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS SEEKING TO ADOPT A MINOR WHO IS IN THE CUSTODY OR PLACEMENT RESPONSIBILITY OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

“Criminal history” means a county, state, or federal criminal history of conviction or a pending indictment of a crime, whether a misdemeanor or a felony, that bears upon an individual’s fitness to have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children, including the following North Carolina crimes contained in any of the following Articles of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes: Article 6, Homicide; Article 7A, Rape and Kindred Offences; Article 8, Assaults; Article 10, Kidnapping and Abduction; Article 13, Malicious Injury or Damage by Use of Explosive or Incendiary Device or Material; Article 26, Offences Against Public Morality and Decency; Article 27, Prostitution; Article 39, Protection of Minors; Article 40, Protection of the Family; and Article 59, Public Intoxication; violation of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, and alcohol-related offenses such as sale to underage persons in violation of G.S. 18-B-302 or driving while impaired in violation of G.S. 20-138.1 through G.S. 20-138.5; or similar crimes under the federal law or under the laws of other states. Your fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

If it is determined, based on your criminal history, that you are unfit to have responsibility for the safety or well-being of children, you shall have the opportunity to complete, or challenge the accuracy of, the information contained in the SBI or FBI identification records.

If you are denied a favorable preplacement assessment by a county department of Social Services as a result of the criminal history check, you may request a review of the assessment pursuant to G.S. 48-3-308(a).

Any prospective adoptive parent who intentionally falsifies any information required to be furnished to conduct the criminal history is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

STANDARDS REGARDING DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The Nash County Department of Social Services recognizes that a child has the right to live in a home where he is cared for by loving, nurturing adults who provide shelter, clothing, medical care, supervision, and intellectual stimulation. In training children, we also feel that being rewarded for good behavior rather than being punished for bad behavior has many advantages. Many children coming into care have never been rewarded by praise, and therefore, act out in order to obtain attention. We feel that foster parents can play a big part in helping a child become self-disciplined.

In recognition that foster parents are expressing an interest in training and discipline of children currently residing in their homes, the following standards have been developed by the N. C. Division of Social Services Children's Services Section.

I. Standards

Training and discipline of children shall be handled by foster parents with kindness and understanding. The foster parents and the Agency shall adhere to the most positive and consistent behavior management techniques. Methods of discipline such as withdrawal of privileges, time-out and reasoning are encouraged. Foster parents shall ensure that children are:

- a) provided training and discipline that is appropriate for the child's age, intelligence, emotional make-up and past experiences;
- b) not subjected to cruel, severe or unusual punishment;
- c) not subjected to corporal punishment;
- d) not deprived of a meal or contacts with birth family as a means of punishment;
- e) not placed in isolation except when isolation means the removal of a child to a separate unlocked room or area (time-out) from which the child is not physically prevented from leaving;
- f) never subjected to verbal abuse, threats or humiliating remarks

II. Services to the Foster Parents

Discipline problems are not restricted to any particular socio-economic group. Raising and disciplining someone else's child may bring with it its own issues that are different from parenting your biological children.

Older and special needs children represent a large portion of the current foster care population. As a result, these children are requiring more skill on the part of foster parents in dealing with their behavior. We are here to help you and have found that oftentimes the earlier problems are shared with the worker, the more positive the outcome. The workers are in the unique position of hearing how other foster parents have handled similar behaviors of children in foster care and may have information that could be helpful. We encourage you to use the following resources available to you through your licensing worker:

- a) Licensing/Child's Worker
- b) Foster Parent Training
- c) Other community resources

Side Effects of Physical Punishment

Many parents, at some time, have felt that physical punishment (smacking, swatting, hitting and spanking) is the effective way to make a child stop a bad behavior. Many parents have seen that physical punishment can be effective because:

- ❖ It immediately stops the behavior, at least for a while, by getting the child's attention.
- ❖ It makes the parents feel better because they are angry and therefore, have a way to express their anger...the child **knows** they are angry.
- ❖ Many parents themselves were raised with physical punishment and turned out to be okay people.

Therefore, what is the problem with physical punishment? What could be the negative side effects of using physical punishment, especially with children who need a foster home?

Many children needing a foster family have been physically abused. These children respond to physical punishment in one of three ways:

1. The pain doesn't bother them. As mentioned above, they seem not to feel it.
2. They may overreact to it and get hysterical, because it reminds them of a time when they had been severely abused and hurt.
3. They may find pleasure or relief in getting the spanking, because it is the only way they have learned to get attention.

Thus for children who have been abused, spanking or smacking can be terribly damaging. Sometimes foster parents may not know if a child has been abused until the child has been placed with them.

Physical punishment models aggressive behavior. For example:

A tired mother is in a grocery store or doctor's office with her two children, who are fighting. They start hitting each other. The mother finally turns around and hits her children, telling them to stop hitting each other. Certainly she got them to stop hitting—at least for a while. But what did she also teach them? Yes, that the way you get people to do what you want is to hit them.

Physical punishment teaches children **what not to do** instead of **what to do**.

Finally, physical punishment hurts children, and the children needing a foster family have already been hurt enough.

NASH COUNTY FOSTER CARE

Resource and Information Sheet

Following is information regarding resources available to Nash County foster parents.

- A. **Monthly Board Payment**
Ages 0 through 5 - \$475.00 per month
Ages 6 through 12 - \$581.00 per month
Ages 13 and up - \$634.00 per month

- B. **Monthly Medicaid Benefits to cover medical appointments and prescriptions.**

- C. **Day Care for foster children in approved and reimbursable day care facilities. (foster care only) to support the employment of foster parents.**

- D. **Children in Foster Care in Nash County:** Nash County averages around 50 children in agency custody at any given time. Some of these children are placed with family or within their kinship network. Children can be of any age, gender or race and may have with special needs. There is not typical child – our foster children are as diverse as our county’s population.

- G. **Children in Foster Care in Nash County who are cleared for adoption and have no identified adoptive family as of February 1, 2016.**

Twin females, age 13 – Desire and Kalliyah
Female, age 9 – Kaylah
Female, age 14 - Jasmine
Female, age 17 – Deja

Selection Process for a Foster Family Requesting to Adopt A Foster Child who resides in their home

In recognition that foster parents are expressing an interest in adopting foster children currently residing in their homes, the following procedure has been developed to make the agency's response to these requests more consistent.

Standards:

1. If foster parents indicate an interest in adopting a particular foster child, the foster parents should be informed when the child's plan becomes adoption.
2. Extended family members of the foster family will be treated as any other adoptive applicant.
3. Foster parents should be free of guilt to choose not to adopt when it is not in the best interest of the child and the foster family.

Services to the Foster Parents

If foster parents express the desire to adopt a foster child after the child's plan becomes adoption, the foster parents will be expected to:

- a. Notify the Child's Foster Care Worker
- b. Notify the Agency through a formal written request

Upon receipt of the formal request, and after the child becomes legally free for adoption, the Foster Care Licensing Worker will prepare the Pre-placement Assessment for presentation to the Adoption Committee.

Selection of Home and Placement Process

1. After the completion of the Pre-Placement Assessment, the study will be evaluated by the Adoption Committee. The Adoption Committee shall be composed of the following agency personnel:
 - (a) Agency Director
 - (b) Assistant Director
 - (c) Program Manager
 - (d) Placement Supervisor
 - (e) Adoption Social Worker
 - (f) Family's Foster Care Worker
 - (g) Adoptions Supervisor

2. The Adoption Committee may approve or reject the Home Study and selection of the family as the child's adoptive home. If further information is requested by the Committee on the foster family or the child, the final decision will be tabled until the requested information is compiled.
3. The final decision will be made by the Adoption Committee.
4. The Adoption and/or Foster Home Worker will inform the foster family of the committee's decision regarding the permanent placement of the child.

The agency's willingness to complete an Adoptive Home Study for a foster family does not indicate that permanent adoptive placement of the foster child has been approved. The Adoption Committee will have to assess the child's long-range needs and evaluate the foster family's ability to meet the child's needs on a permanent basis. Factors considered are:

- (a) Age of the child/children
- (b) Age and health of the foster parents
- (c) Bonding between the child/children and the foster family
- (d) Special needs of the child/children
- (e) Foster parents ability to meet the special needs of the child on a permanent basis

The foster parents must understand that the agency can make no commitment to them unless their study has been approved by the Adoption Committee and the committee has decided that the child's best interest would be served by placement in the foster home on a permanent basis. It would follow, however, that it is normally in the child's best interest to be placed with a family with whom they have a significant bond and where additional trauma caused by another move can be avoided thus making the foster family a likely adoptive candidate for a child in their home.

NASH COUNTY ADOPTION PROGRAM

Resource and Information Sheet

A. Adoption Assistance Benefits for Special Needs Children

1. Cash Payments to Adoptive Parents in the Form of Monthly Assistance as follows:

Ages 0 through 5 - \$475.00 per month

Ages 6 through 12 - \$581.00 per month

Ages 13 through 18 - \$634.00 per month

2. Maximum of \$2400.00 annually to providers of medical, psychological, therapeutic, or remedial services, for identified special needs.

3. Medicaid will be provided for eligible children.

* Please note that not all children in the foster care system are eligible for adoption assistance. Eligibility is determined by the special needs of the child as determined by specific criteria established by the state. A child may be determined to have special needs through this criteria if they are over the age of 6, over the age of 2 and a member of a minority group, a member of a sibling group being placed together, or if they have a physical, mental or emotional disability.

B. Non-Recurring Adoption Costs for Children with Special Needs

Reimbursement of reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, etc. that are incurred by adoptive parents and that are directly related to the legal adoption of an eligible child may be available to adoptive families.

C. Agency Requirements for Adoptive Applicants

1. Nash County resident.
2. If married, you have been married for 1 year.
3. Must attend an Orientation Meeting and complete the Foster and Adoptive Home Application that will be provided at that time.
4. Complete our agency's 30 hour Group Preparation and Selection – Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety and Permanence: Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting.
5. Mandatory criminal history checks and fingerprinting.
6. You must be interested in adopting children in the foster care system. These children often have special needs as defined below:
 - A child age 3 or older that is a member of a minority
 - A sibling group of 2 or more
 - A child with specific emotional, medical and/or physical handicaps/needs.

D. **Home Study Components** - Generally there will be four to five contacts with the couple wanting to foster or adopt. During those visits, we will explore together:

1. The quality of your marital relationship if married.
2. Your family history.
3. Your employment history to evaluate job satisfaction, employment stability and reasons for changes in employment.
4. Your housing to evaluating whether a home is appropriate to meet the needs of a child. Is the home safe and do you have adequate space and bedding for another family member.
5. Your financial situation. Can you meet your own needs and afford to add a family member?
6. Your family's attitude toward religious training and church activities for a child.
7. Health of applicants – a medical examination is required for all family members.
8. Experiences with children.
9. Motivation and attitudes toward adoption.
10. Your readiness to adopt.
11. Character references (at least 4 non-relatives).
12. Criminal and civil record checks are completed.
13. EMS call logs are checked
14. Protective services check completed.
15. Fingerprinting is required on all adoptive applicants.

NASH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ADOPTION FEE POLICY

Nash County Department of Social Services has developed a fee policy for the preparation of Preplacement Assessments and Reports to the Court in accordance with N.C.G.S. 48-3-3-304 and N.C.G.S. 48-2-504.

No fee shall be charged without a written fee agreement signed by the parties to be charged prior to the beginning of the service. The fee agreement shall not be based on the outcome of the report or the adoption proceeding. The fee must be paid in full before the social worker submits the assessment to the adoption committee for evaluation or the report to the Court of Adoptions for processing.

Preplacement Assessments

Who must pay a fee?

1. Prospective adoptive families (individuals or couples) who need a Preplacement Assessment to adopt through a direct placement (independent placement).
2. Prospective adoptive families (individuals or couples) who need a Preplacement Assessment in order to adopt through a licensed adoption agency and who state that they are not interested in adopting a child in the North Carolina Foster Care System.

Fee Exemptions

1. Prospective adoptive families in which the head of the household is a WFFA or SSI recipient.
2. Prospective adoptive families whose family unit income is below the State's Established Income.
3. Prospective adoptive families who state that they are interested in adopting a child identified or unidentified, in the custody and placement responsibility of a local department of social services.
4. Nash County Department of Social Services may exercise its option to reduce or waive the fee after verifying and documenting that the prospective adoptive family cannot pay the fee, or if other reasons exist that would result in the fee becoming a barrier to the adoption.

Updated Preplacement Assessments

N.C.G.S. 48-3-301 requires that Preplacement Assessments be current within 18 months immediately preceding placement of a minor. Nash County Department of Social Services will charge an updation fee to those families desiring to keep the Preplacement Assessment current who are not interested in adopting a child identified or unidentified, in the custody and placement responsibility of a local department of social services.

Reports to the Court

Who must pay a fee?

1. Families or individuals desiring a Report to the Court when a parent or guardian places a minor directly with a step-parent, grandparent, sibling, first cousin, aunt, uncle, great-aunt, great-uncle or great-grandparent of the minor.
2. Families or individuals desiring a Report to the court who have a Preplacement Assessment prepared by an agency other than Nash County Department of Social Services.

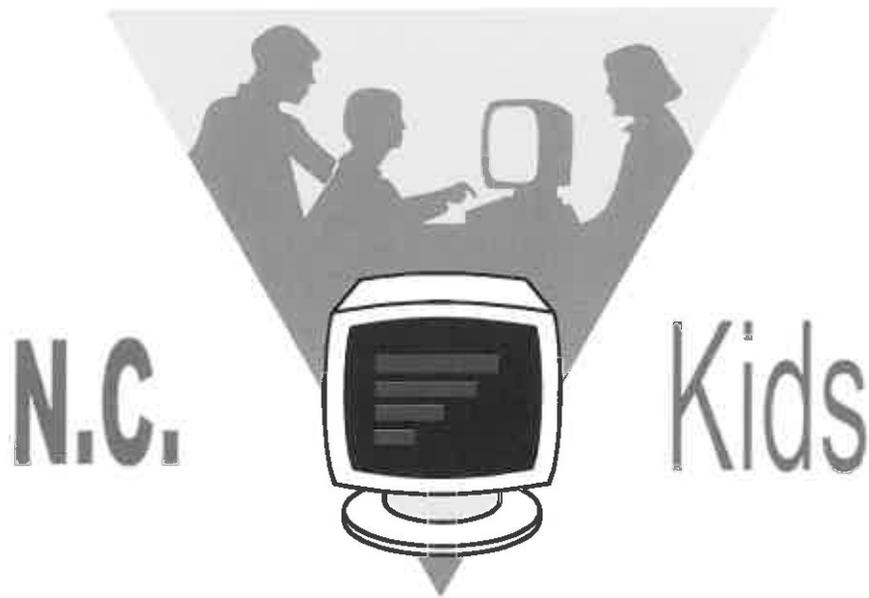
Exemptions

1. Prospective adoptive families in which the head of the household family is a WFFA or SSI recipient.
2. Prospective adoptive families whose family unit income is below the State's Established Income.
3. Nash County Department of Social Services may exercise its option to reduce or waive the fee after verifying and documenting that the prospective adoptive family cannot pay the fee, or if other reasons exist that would result in the fee becoming a barrier to the adoption.
4. Prospective adoptive families adopting a child in the custody and placement responsibility of a local department of social services.

Fee Schedule

A fee schedule is available upon request. All income considered in fee determination must be verified.

North Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange



Visit our Website



www.adoptuskids.org

1-888-625-4371

NCKids/adoptuskids has a wealth of information not only about children available for adoption but about the adoption process and agencies that provide adoption services

Updated: 01/15/2016

**Licensed Private Child-Placing Agencies in North Carolina
NC Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Social Services
ADOPTION AGENCIES**

Initials next to agency name indicate the Name of Licensing Consultant who is responsible for agency licensure.

(DC) Dora Carter. Ms. Carter can be reached at Dora.Carter@dhhs.nc.gov

(HW) Heather West. Ms. West can be reached at Heather.West@dhhs.nc.gov

(LW) Linda Waite. Ms. Waite can be reached at Linda.Waite@dhhs.nc.gov

(LD) Lori Davis. Ms. Davis can be reached at Lori.H.Davis@dhhs.nc.gov

Avery County

Barium Springs Home for Children LD

Post Office Box 98, Banner Elk, NC 28604

John Koppelmeyer, President

828-898-5465

The Crossnore School LD

Post Office Box 249, Crossnore, NC 28616

Brett Loftis, Chief Executive Officer

828-733-4305

Buncombe County

The Bair Foundation HW

108 Executive Park, Asheville, NC 28801

Dama Conti, Executive Director

919-573-6128

Cabarrus County

The Datz Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. LW

235 Cabarrus Avenue East, Concord, NC 28025

Mark Eckman / Vivian Datoff, Directors

704-643-1110

Cleveland County

Children's Homes of Cleveland County, Inc. HW

Post Office Box 2053, Shelby, NC 28151

Margie Christopher, Executive Director

704-484-2558

Columbus County

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. HW

Post Office Box 127, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450

Donna Yalch, VP of Community Based Services

910-646-2236

Cumberland County

Falcon Children's Home and Family Services, Inc. (The)

dba A New Life Christian Adoptions **HW**, 7569 N. West Street, Falcon, NC 28342

Joseph Leggett, Executive Director; John Wheeler, Director of Foster Care and Adoption Services

910-980-1065 Updated: 01/15/2016

Durham County

International Christian Adoptions, Inc. DC

1800 Martin Luther King Parkway, Suite 201, Durham, NC 27707
Michalina Deboard, Executive Director North Carolina
919-599-8798

Forsyth County

The Children's Home, Inc. LD

1001 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Maurice D. Ware, President/CEO
336-721-7600

Family Services, Inc. LD

1200 South Broad Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Alfred C. Renna, President
336-722-8173
Gaston County

Lifeline Children's Services, Inc. LD

2020 Remount Road, Suite W-120, Gastonia, NC 28054
Levacy Smith, Executive Director
205-967-0811

Guilford County

Carolina Adoption Services LD

301 North Elm Street, Suite 201, Greensboro, NC 27401
Angela Jackson, Interim Executive Director
336-275-9660

Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Inc. LD

Post Office Box 14608, Greensboro, NC 27415
Sandra Y. Yarborough, Executive Director
336-274-1538

Hopscotch Adoptions, Inc. LD

1208 Eastchester Drive, Suite 120, High Point, NC 27265
Robin Sizemore, Executive Director
336-899-0068

Seven Homes, Inc. LD

204 Kelly Place, High Point, NC 27262
Kenneth Maxwell, Executive Director
336-883-0207

Iredell County

Adoption Matters, Inc. LD

134 Professional Park Drive, Suite 400, Mooresville, NC 28117
Erin Clark, Executive Director
704-770-6489

Barium Springs Home for Children LD

Post Office Box 1, Barium Springs, NC 28010
John Koppelmeyer, President
704-873-1011 Updated: 01/15/2016

Mecklenburg County

America World Adoption Association-North Carolina, Inc. LW
112 South Old Statesville Road, Suite 208, Huntersville, NC 28078
Michele Kuxhausen, Director of Social Services
866-698-9082

Another Choice for Black Children, Inc. LW
2340 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC 28216
Ruth Amerson, CEO
704-394-1124 or 1-800-774-3534

Bethany Christian Services of North Carolina DC
4944 Parkway Plaza Boulevard, Suite 190, Charlotte, NC 28217
Dahlene S. Morse, NC State Director
828-651-8600

Carolina Family Connections LW
3141 Amity Court, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28215
Laine Clontz, President
704-568-9753

Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte LW
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203
Gerard A. Carter, Executive Director
704-370-3227

Christian Adoption Services, Inc. LW
624 Matthews-Mint Hill Road, Suite 100, Matthews, NC 28105
James M. Woodward, Executive Director
704-847-0038

Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas DC
1225 Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204
Myra Griffie, COO
1-800-HELPING (453-7464)

Nathanson Adoption Services of North Carolina LW
7400 Carmel Executive Park, Suite 210, Charlotte, NC 28226
Helene Nathanson, Executive Director
704-553-9506

NC Homestudies, LLC LW
1817 Central Avenue, Suite C204, Charlotte, NC 28205
Barbara Lorenzo, CEO
704-678-8969

Neighbor to Family, Inc. LW
1914 J. N. Pease Place, Charlotte, NC 28262
Mary Dowdell, Executive Director
336-987-6642

Primary Care Solutions, Inc. LW
5700 Executive Center Drive, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28212
William Bullock, President/CEO
704-537-1022 Updated: 01/15/2016

Saint Mary International Adoptions, Inc. LW
1515 Mockingbird Lane, Suite 560, Charlotte, NC 28209
Vesselina Ratcheva, CEO
704-527-7673

New Hanover County
Children At Heart Adoption Services, Inc. HW
254 North Front Street, Suite 200, Wilmington, NC 28401
Janice Bergeron, Executive Director
910-763-4414

Orange County
Triangle Adoption Services DC
104 South Estes Drive, Suite 301N, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Susan Brown, Executive Director
919-906-0270

Pitt County
The Gladney Center for Adoption DC
235 Commerce Street, Greenville, NC 27858
Connie Landen, Area Program Director
252-355-6267

Rowan County
Nazareth Children's Home, Inc. LW
Post Office Box 1438, Rockwell, NC 28138
Vernon Walters, Jr., President/CEO
888-207-0250

Wake County
A Child's Hope of North Carolina, LLC DC
434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2135, Raleigh, NC 27601
E. Parker Herring, Director
919-839-8800

Amazing Grace Adoptions HW
9203 Baileywick Road, Suite 101, Raleigh, NC 27615
Donnas Kinton, Executive Director
919-858-8998

Association for Guidance, Aid, Placement, and Empathy of NC, Inc. LD
2012 South Main Street, Suite 500D, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Kimberly Scott, Executive Director
919-673-7816

The Bair Foundation HW
3737 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27612
Dama Conti, Executive Director
919-573-6128

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc. HW
7200 Stonehenge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613
Gary Skinner, Executive Director
919-821-9752 Updated: 01/15/2016

Easter Seals UCP North Carolina & Virginia, Inc. DC

2315 Myron Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607
Luanne Welch, President/CEO
919-280-1811

Frank Adoption Center, North Carolina DC

308F W Millbrook Road, Suite 3, Raleigh, NC 27609
Mary Lee King, Executive Director
919-325-2223

Home Study Services of North Carolina, Inc. DC

4021 Iverson Street, Raleigh, NC 27604
Anne Liddicote, Director
919-272-6953

Independent Adoption Center DC

11030 Raven Ridge Road, Suite 109, Raleigh, NC 27614
Niketa Frazier, Branch Director
919-457-0165

The Methodist Home for Children, Inc. HW

1041 Washington Street, Raleigh, NC 27605
Bruce Stanley, President/CEO
919-833-2834

Omni Visions, Inc. DC

3739 National Drive, Suite 220, Raleigh, NC 27612
Treva Johnson, NC State Director
1-800-851-8905

Wilkes County

Ebenezer Christian Children's Home LD

1006 Byrd Ridge Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Jean Davis, Executive Director
336-667-5683