

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: October 6, 2010

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

CHANGE NO: 05- 2010

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

RE: NC LINKS POLICY REVISIONS

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

I. BACKGROUND / CHANGE INTENT

This revision is in response to amendments within federal law. Section 2955(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ([P.L. 111-148 / H.R. 3590](#)) which specifies, effective October 1, 2010, youth transition planning shall include information on the importance of designating someone to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the youth in foster care if the youth is unable to do so and does not have or want a relative who would otherwise be so designated under State/Tribal law to make such decisions. The law provides the child with the option to execute a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document recognized under State/Tribal law. The attached revised policy (pages 25-26) addresses the necessary amendments as outlined in Program Instructions ([ACYF-CB-PI-10-11](#)) issued by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) on July 9, 2010.

II. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

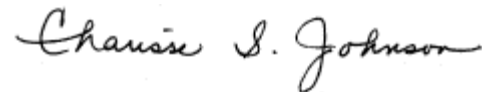
This revised policy provides guidance to county departments of social services on providing information to youth on the importance of designating someone to make health care treatment decisions on their behalf if the youth is unable to do so and does not have or does not want a relative who would otherwise be designated to make such decisions. The revised policy clarifies that the transition plan must be personalized at the direction of the child, be as detailed as he or she chooses, and include specific options regarding housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services, sexual health services, resources on making healthy lifestyle choices, work force supports and employment services. Finally, the revised policy strongly encourages county departments of social services to recognize that, while the transition plan is required to be developed 90 days prior to aging out of foster care, the agency should begin preparing youth to develop a plan well in advance of the 90-day period in order to more fully engage a youth in his or her transition plan development.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

Obsolete	Utilize
Family Services Manual (Volume 1); Chapter IV; Section 1201 (Child Placement Services); VII – Adolescent Services: NC LINKS (Change #09-2009)	Family Services Manual (Volume 1); Chapter IV; Section 1201 (Child Placement Services); VII – Adolescent Services: NC LINKS (Change #05-2010)

Should you have further questions please contact the Division's LINKS Coordinator at 919-733-4622 or your agency's Children's Program Representative.

Sincerely,



Charisse Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

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