

Sharing Social Services Information

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Health care providers often need information about removal and placement history in order to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care to their patients in foster care. This document highlights new guidance on the sharing of social services information between county Departments of Social Services and health care providers.

Recent changes to the North Carolina Juvenile Code authorize County Departments of Social Services (DSS) to share child welfare case information with health care providers working with children in DSS custody. House Bill 669/Session Law 2015-136 added a new section to the code, 7B-505.1(e):

“Except as prohibited by federal law, the department [DSS] may disclose confidential information deemed necessary for the juvenile's assessment and treatment to a health care provider serving the juvenile.”

The new law also *requires* health care providers to share information with DSS--7B-505.1(f):

“Unless the court has ordered otherwise, except as prohibited by federal law, a health care provider shall disclose confidential information about a juvenile to a director of a county department of social services with custody of the juvenile and a parent, guardian, or custodian.”

To view the full text of House Bill 669/Session Law 2015-136:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2015/Bills/House/PDF/H669v5.pdf>