

CHAPTER V – JURISDICTION IN CHILD WELFARE

CHANGE # 1-2016

April 2016

V. WHEN COUNTY DEPARTMENTS DISAGREE

A. Process for Resolving Disagreements in CPS Cases When Multiple Counties are Involved

- 1.) Should a disagreement occur among staff when more than one county child welfare agency is involved regarding any or all parts of a child welfare case, the staff involved with the case and their respective supervisors should attempt to resolve the issues and come to a consensus with a focus on family-centered practice.
- 2.) If the staff from the county child welfare agencies involved and their respective supervisors cannot reach a consensus, the program managers/administrators from each county child welfare should confer, attempt to resolve the issues, and come to a consensus with a focus on family-centered practice.
- 3.) If the issues cannot be resolved at the program manager/administrator level, the directors of the involved child welfare agencies will be notified of the issues and the fact that the issues cannot be resolved by their staff and management. The directors will confer, attempt to resolve the issues, and come to a consensus with a focus on family-centered practice.

B. Consultation with the Division of Social Services

In the event that the county child welfare agencies involved cannot resolve the issues and come to a consensus at the directors' level, the appropriate Children's Programs Representative (CPR) will be contacted. If multiple CPRs are assigned to the different counties involved in the situation, each county's CPR should be included in the discussion. The CPR manager may also be contacted as a means of resolving the disagreement between the county child welfare agencies. In the event that the CPR or CPR manager is unavailable, contact the Division's CPS Policy Team at (919) 527-6340.

N.C.G.S. § 153A-257(d) (http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_153A/GS_153A-257.pdf) provides the Division of Social Services with the authority to make a decision when disagreements occur and the decision of the Division shall be final.

NOTE: At no time shall a CPS Assessment be allowed to go un-assessed due to a disagreement between county child welfare agencies. Although nothing should prevent a county social worker from crossing into another county to conduct a CPS Assessment activity if necessary, a request from the other county should be made first.