



# Bulletin

**NUMBER**

#14-68-17

**DATE**

November 6, 2014

**OF INTEREST TO**

County Directors

Social Services Supervisors  
and Staff

Tribal Social Service  
Directors and Staff

County Fiscal Coordinators  
and Staff

County Attorneys

Tribal Attorneys

Minnesota Juvenile Court

Private Child Caring  
Agencies

**ACTION/DUE DATE**

Review and implement as  
directed.

**EXPIRATION DATE**

November 6, 2016

## Northstar Care for Children Practice Guide Issued

**TOPIC**

Northstar Care for Children practice guide.

**PURPOSE**

Inform stakeholders of the recently published practice guide on Northstar Care for Children, which will support child welfare professionals in their work with the child welfare system.

**CONTACT**

For questions regarding Northstar Care for Children and its implementation:

[Northstar.care@state.mn.us](mailto:Northstar.care@state.mn.us)

For questions regarding using the Social Service Information System (SSIS) in implementing Northstar Care for Children:

[dhs.ssishelp@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.ssishelp@state.mn.us), or 651-431-4801

**SIGNED**

ERIN SULLIVAN SUTTON  
Assistant Commissioner  
Children and Family Services Administration

**TERMINOLOGY NOTICE**

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (department) recently published the “Northstar Care for Children Practice Guide” to inform stakeholders of policies and procedures for implementing Northstar Care for Children (Northstar Care). The program was enacted in 2013, with added amendments in 2014.

Effective Jan. 1, 2015, children entering foster care or experiencing a change in placement or program will be eligible for Northstar Care for Children. Northstar Care aligns funds to focus on needs, and supports permanency for Minnesota children.

Eligibility for Northstar Care’s three components (Northstar foster care, Northstar Kinship Assistance and Northstar Adoption Assistance) are based on federal Title IV-E regulations, even for children who are not eligible for Title IV-E. Under Northstar Care, three different methods of assessment have been replaced by one assessment tool, the Minnesota Assessment of Parenting for Youth and Children. The assessment tool focuses on a thorough assessment of the individual needs of a child and the parenting required for them.

Existing pre-Northstar Care programs (foster care, Relative Custody Assistance and Adoption Assistance) will be retained for children already in them and slowly phased out as children exit.

**Important date:** No additional children may be added to existing Relative Custody Assistance or Adoption Assistance after Nov. 26, 2014. Department staff recommends that transfers of permanent legal and physical custody and adoption not be finalized between Nov. 26, 2014, and Jan. 1, 2015.

Here is a link to the electronic version of the Northstar Care for Children practice guide:

[Northstar Care Practice Guide](#)

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory**

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4660 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency’s ADA coordinator.