



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“The Domestic Violence Child Welfare Initiative” -
Helping Catawba County Protect Children and Families Experiencing
Domestic Violence**

Hickory, NC – Imagine that you are a battered parent of two young children seeking protection and safety from your abuser. You have no money, no transportation and don't want to burden your family and friends. Imagine that you reach out and receive information about resources such as a domestic violence protective order, shelter/emergency housing, counseling, and financial assistance that may be available for you and your children but you need help accessing these services.

This scenario is all too familiar to battered parents in our community and in communities across North Carolina. Battered parents struggle to overcome real barriers in order to get the help they need to keep their children safe. Our community is leading the effort to enhance communication and coordination between agencies and to encourage collaboration among all community stakeholders, to ensure that children, their battered parents, and families experiencing co-occurring domestic violence and child maltreatment receive the services they need. The Catawba County Department of Social Services is joining together with First Step Domestic Violence Program to host a one-day Community Dialogue on Domestic Violence and Child Welfare. The dialogue, provided by the NC Association of County Directors of Social Services' (NCACDSS) *Domestic Violence Child Welfare Initiative*, aims to bring together county DSS agencies and key stakeholders in their communities to help children and families. Here in Catawba County, stakeholders from both the child welfare and domestic violence communities will participate in a day-long planning process aimed at building on existing community partnerships and collaboration efforts while working to enhance protection of children and families.

The project is supported through a NC Governor's Crime Commission grant and with funding from the Duke Endowment. The one-day dialogue will be held in Catawba County on April 12, 2007. For additional information about this event, contact Elizabeth Clore with the Catawba County Department of Social Services at (828) 695-5723.

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60 Second PSA

Imagine that you are a battered parent and have no money or transportation to seek safety for yourself and your children. Battered parents struggle to overcome real barriers in order to get the help they need to keep their children safe. Our community is leading the effort to get these families the services they need. The Department of Social Services is joining together with First Step Domestic Violence Program to host a one-day Community Dialogue on Domestic Violence and Child Welfare. The dialogue aims to bring together county DSS agencies and key stakeholders in the community to help children, their battered parents, and families experiencing co-occurring domestic violence and child maltreatment. Stakeholders from both the child welfare and domestic violence communities will participate in a day-long planning process on April 12, 2007. The goal is to build upon existing community partnerships and collaboration in an effort to enhance protection of children and families. For additional information about this event, contact Elizabeth Clore with the Catawba County Department of Social Services at (828) 695-5723.

30 Second PSA

Battered parents struggle to overcome real barriers in order to get the help they need to keep their children safe. On April 12th, DSS and the First Step Domestic Violence Program will to host a one-day Community Dialogue on Domestic Violence and Child Welfare. Stakeholders from both the child welfare and domestic violence communities will work to build upon existing partnerships and collaboration in an effort to enhance protection of children and families. For more information, contact Elizabeth Clore (828) 695-5723.