

Providers,

In the coming days some group homes or foster parents may find it necessary to evacuate to avoid the impact of Hurricane Florence. Take a moment to visit S.C. EMD's hurricane preparedness website for tips: <http://www.scemd.org/planandprepare/disasters/hurricanes>.

Before you evacuate:

Email DSS at cpa-gh-disaster@dss.sc.gov or call the Disaster Hotline **(1-800-700-1156)** to notify of your evacuation plans and the location of children in your care.

After you evacuate:

After you have reached your destination and are safe from the disaster, call the Disaster Hotline **(1-800-700-1156)** ***within 24 hours*** and provide DSS with the following information:

- foster child's name
- county or office of case management
- foster child's whereabouts and situation
- the telephone numbers and address where the child/family or group home residents can be reached

Information for foster parents:

See the attached DSS Policy Statement regarding Disaster Preparedness Plans. Foster parents should evacuate to shelters that have been approved by the local emergency/disaster preparedness Red Cross team. Each foster parent must ensure that the foster child's name is listed on an attendance roster if they remain in the shelter. Foster children should always be under the care of the foster parent(s) during an evacuation.

In the event that the foster parents plan to evacuate to a residence, they must be certain that:

- the location is safe and is large enough to accommodate everyone
- the location of residence is located far enough away to not be threatened by the disaster
- the name, address and telephone number of the residence is available
- the residence is appropriate to the needs of the child

Information for group homes:

Group homes will be contacted by licensing consultants to verify the evacuation plan, if any, and should be prepared to provide information regarding the evacuation site (including address), the number and names of children in care, and plans for adequate staffing, medication storage, record security and resident identification during the event. If there is a change of plans during the evacuation, please e-mail updated information to cpa-gh-disaster@dss.sc.gov.

If you do not plan to evacuate, please notify your licensing consultant.

If anyone needs assistance in obtaining shelter, please contact the Disaster Hotline at **1-800-700-1156**. If you know of anyone else who should receive this e-mail, please feel free to forward the information.

Please enclosed all children placed in the home regardless of their level of care.