

BACKGROUND

The Rowan County Department of Social Services provides a wide range of economic and social services, all of which are held to strict standards of confidentiality.

Specifically, N.C.G.S. 108A-80 states: “[I]t shall be unlawful for any person to obtain, disclose or use, or to authorize, permit, or acquiesce in the use of any list of names or other information concerning persons applying for or receiving public assistance or social services that may be directly or indirectly derived from the records, files, or communications of...county departments of social services or acquired in the course of performing official duties except for the purposes directly connected with the administration of the programs of public assistance and social services.”

POLICY

Consistent with the intent of N.C.G.S. 108A-80 and to ensure the safety and protect the confidentiality of clients and families applying for or receiving assistance from the Rowan County Department of Social Services (the “Department”), it is determined that the Department lobby is a nonpublic forum. Citizens with official business related to the Department and activities specifically authorized by the Department Director are allowed in the lobby area. The Department prohibits filming, recording of images or voices, live-streaming, or conducting any other type of recording that would compromise or capture the identities of citizens conducting business at the Department. Individuals without business related to Department programs may be asked to leave by authorized personnel.