



HAPPY

4TH



OF



JULY



**HURRICANE SEASON IS UPON US
MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED**



JUNE 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH

Hurricane Safety Tips

Plan Ahead

Source: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan>

Know your zone - Do you live near the Gulf or Atlantic Coast? Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government / emergency management office or by checking the [evacuation site website](#).

Put together a [basic emergency](#) kit and check emergency equipment such as flashlights, generators, and storm shutters

Write or review your Family Emergency Plan. Plan before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Start at the Ready.Gov [emergency plan webpage](#).

Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property

Understand NWS forecast products, especially the meaning of [NWS watches and warnings](#).

Preparation tips for your home from the [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes](#)

Hurricane Safety Tips

Take Action

Source: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan>

When a hurricane threatens your community, be prepared to evacuate if you live in a storm surge risk area. Allow enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home.

Secure your home: Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8 inch exterior grade or marine plywood, built to fit, and ready to install. Buy supplies before the hurricane season rather than waiting for the pre-storm rush.

Stayed tuned in: Check the websites of your local National Weather Service office and local government/emergency management office. Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other radio or TV stations for the latest storm news. Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!

If NOT ordered to evacuate:

Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level during the storm. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.

Stay away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.

If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force winds coming from the opposite direction.

Hurricane Safety Tips After the Storm

Source: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan>

Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.

If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe. Once home, drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects in the road, downed electrical wires, and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks that might collapse.

Walk carefully around the outside of your home to check for loose power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage.

Stay out of any building if you smell gas, if floodwaters remain around the building, if the building or home was damaged by fire, or if the authorities have not declared it safe.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after storms in areas dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage. Review generator safety.

Use battery-powered flashlights. Do NOT use candles. Turn on your flashlight before entering a vacated building. The battery could produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.

Hurricane Safety Tips

Make sure to stay in contact with your Licensure Specialist and case workers for children placed in your home.

If you need to evacuate your home please let your workers know where you will be and how best to contact you.

If you are unable to reach your worker please call **1-800-222-8000** to report your whereabouts and any issues you may be experiencing due to a storm.



Upcoming Training Opportunity!

Foster parents will receive 3 in-person training hours for attending the event

EVERY MIND MATTERS PROJECT

Speakers

SATURDAY

JULY
6

10:00AM-2:00PM



HOSTED BY
KEYA LEE



SHELLY GRAY

Humanitarian
SHE IS ME



STAR NELSON

Mississippi Department of
Child Protective Services



VALERIE YOUNG

Lifehelp(Region 6 Mental
Health)



CHRIS KERN

USCCA Certified Firearms Ins-
tructor-Bomani Defense



DR. CHANCEY FORT

LPSC, LPC, NCC, NCSC, RPT,
BC-TMH
Beyond Integrative Counseling
and Consulting, LLC



ANTONIO L. RILEY

Attala County NAACP President
Kosciusko Lil Whippets Football
and Cheer President



📍 Kosciusko Junior High Gym (Tipton Street)

Upcoming Training Opportunity!

Foster parents will receive 2 in-person training hours for attending the panel discussion from 4pm to 6pm

LET'S GET READY FOR YOUR
ADVENTURE
JULY 18TH 1PM - 6:30PM
WARREN COUNTY-VICKSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Demonstrations
Car Seat Safety - 1PM & 3:30PM
Exercise - 1:30PM & 4PM
Cooking - 2PM & 4:30PM
Calming Techniques - 2:30PM & 5PM
Stop Drop and Roll 3PM & 6PM

Panel Discussions
Early Intervention - 4PM
ADHD - 5PM
Autism - 6PM

Resources
Child Safety
Parenting Classes
Developmental Milestones
Mental Health
Education
Healthy Eating
Physical Activity
Local Adventures

Door Prizes
Children's Books
Board Games
Arts and Crafts

Special Guest
MOVE to LEARN
with Coach Calhoun
1:30PM

Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library
VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BRIDGING EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT
GCC
EXCEL BY 5
CERTIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP
VICKSBURG/WARREN COUNTY

Communities of Hope

PRESENTS

Fostering Hope Hattiesburg

Foster Care Awareness and Call to Action Event



Volunteers Needed!
We need CPS,
partnering agencies and
Foster and Adoptive Parents

Saturday, August 10th
9:00-11:00 am
Doors Open at 8:30 am
William Carey University
Tatum Court
710 William Carey Pkwy
Hattiesburg, MS

Volunteer Spots include:

- Foster Parent Answering Questions
- CPS Specialist Answering Questions
- FP Recruiter Answering Questions
- Licensure Specialist Answering Questions
- Greeter
- Registration Table
- On-Site Application Center
- Refreshment Table
- Navigating to Seats

VOLUNTEER NOW



What is Communities of Hope?

We are agencies, groups, and individuals within Mississippi's communities working together to **embrace** and **support** children and families involved in foster care.

Who Should Attend?

Anyone! At the Fostering Hope event, you will learn about programs and agencies that work to support families and children involved in foster care. This event will be an excellent introduction for anyone wanting to get involved but still trying to figure out how to do it.

Change is Needed

With over **3,800** children in Foster Care on any given day in Mississippi, we must have a collaborative approach to help children and families involved in foster care reach their full potential.

How Can I Get Involved?

We believe that **everyone** can do something! You will meet representatives from Child Protection Services, Heart Gallery, Southern Christian Services, Youth Court, CASA, etc... Opportunities are available to get involved from adoption, fostering, volunteering, donating, etc...





**FOSTER
PARENT
SUPPORT
GROUPS
WANTED**



Foster parents are needing access to more places to receive support from other foster parents and training hours. Locations will need to be secured and training topics approved by MDCPS. Your Liaisons will provide assistance but they need help from others to create the groups and keep them going

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LIAISON FOR MORE
INFORMATION
IF INTERESTED IN CREATING A SUPPORT GROUP**

North - Jamar Bell / jamar.bell@mdcps.ms.gov

Central - Aerial Jackson / aerial.jackson@mdcps.ms.gov

South - Anna Raiola / anna.raiola@mdcps.ms.gov



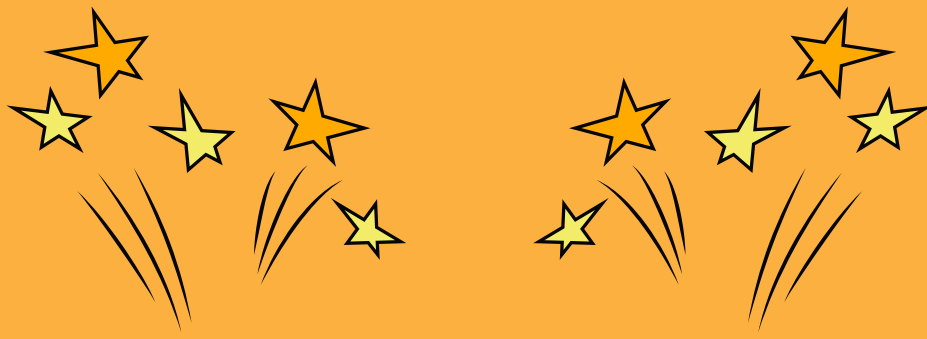
**WE WEAR OUR
CAPES!**

**FOSTER PARENT
RECRUITMENT UNIT**



YEAH!





The Foster Parent Recruitment team is looking for ways to reach more people to provide information about becoming foster parents.

If you know of community events that an informational table can be set up at or if your church is interested in having Recruitment Specialists come and talk to people please reach out to the supervisors to let them know.

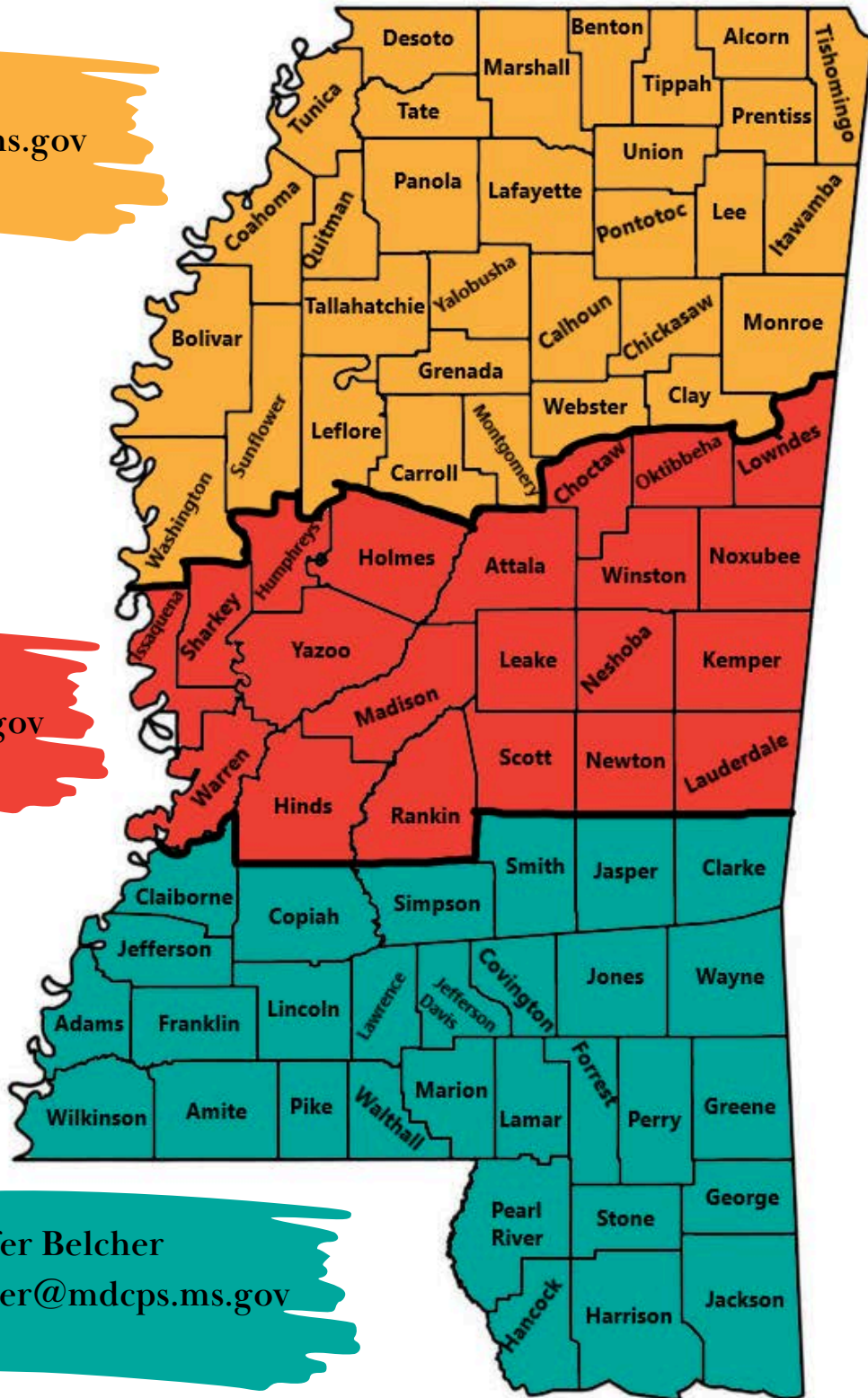
See below for our map of what areas each supervisor covers.

Foster Parent Recruitment Supervisors

Farren Brooks
farren.brooks@mdcps.ms.gov

Aerial Jackson
aerial.jackson@mdcps.ms.gov

Jennifer Belcher
jennifer.belcher@mdcps.ms.gov



JULY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE



RESOURCE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcorn County

Location: Gaines Chapel Church - 1803 Hwy 72, Corinth, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Jennifer Bradley
RSVP for Childcare
(662) 665- 5725

Desoto County

Location: Longview Point Baptist Church - 1100 McIngvale Rd, Hernando, MS, (662) 449-1044

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Thursday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Beth Ford @ bethmford@gmail.com
Free meal served from 5:30pm – 6:00pm

Tate County

Location: Life Point Church - 822 Scott Street, Senatobia, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Free Meal Served: 5:30pm - 6:00pm

RSVP for Childcare & Meal:
(901) 626-9217 or
julietaylor0975@gmail.com

Panola County

Location: Como Church of Christ - 201 East Street, Como, MS (662) 426-1970

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Saturday, monthly, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

RSVP for childcare
sardisc5@yahoo.com

Union County

Location: 300 W Bankhead St. New Albany MS

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Tuesday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Jamar Bell
Please RSVP to jamar.bell@mdcps.ms.gov or
662-640-1578

Pontotoc County

Location: Green Valley Baptist Church - 265 Old Airport Road, Pontotoc, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Brooke Franks (662) 419-7960
Courtney Beard (662) 603-7277 or
cbeard@k12.md.us
RSVP for Childcare

JULY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE



RESOURCE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Lafayette County

Location: The Orchard - 295 MS-7 Oxford, MS

Meeting Date/Time: First Monday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Sarah Ward

Please RSVP to 662-816-6011

Yalobusha County

Location: 610 North Main Street, Water Valley, MS

Meeting Date/Time: July 28th, monthly, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Natalie Turner

RSVP: gnatibryant@gmail.com or 662-414-0912

Webster County

Location: Maben Public Library - 831 2nd Ave, Maben, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Monday, monthly, at 12:00pm

Clay County

Location: Bryan Public Library - 436 Commerce Street, West Point, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Tuesday, monthly, at 12:00pm

Choctaw County

Location: Choctaw County Public Library - 511 S. Louisville Street, Ackerman, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Wednesday, monthly, at 12:00pm

Oktibbeha County

Location: Discovery Center - 1504 Louisville Street, Starkville, MS
(662) 615-0033

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Monday, monthly, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Oktibbeha County

Location: Discovery Center - 1504 Louisville Street, Starkville, MS
(662) 615-0033

Meeting Date/Time: Every Tuesday at 12:00pm

Lowndes County

Location: Columbus-Lowndes Public Library - 314 7th Street N, Columbus, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 4th Wednesday, monthly, at 12:00pm

JULY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE



RESOURCE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Winston County

Location: Winston County Public Library -
100 W. Park Street, Louiseville, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 1st Wednesday,
monthly, at 12:00pm

Carroll County

Location: Carrollton Baptist Church - 113 W
Washington St. Carrollton, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Saturday, monthly,
10am
James and Heather Cain
(662) 392-9277
hcain@ymail.com

Attala County

Location: Attala County Extension Office -
715 Fairground Rd, Kosciusko, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Tuesday, monthly,
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Bobbette Hall (662) 582-4345
carterbobbette@yahoo.com
Ruby Foster (662) 739-0951
No Childcare provided

Noxubee County

Location: Ada S. Fant Memorial-(H.Q.)
Library - 145 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,
Macon, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday, monthly,
at 12:00pm

Forrest/Lamar County

Location: Central Baptist Church - 5402 US
49, Hattiesburg, MS (601) 544-0186

Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday, monthly,
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Micah Adamson- (601) 695-3910
adamsonms@yahoo.com
RSVP for childcare

Harrison County

Location: Church of the King - 920 Cedar Lake
Blvd., Biloxi, MS

Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday, monthly,
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Dan and Vicki Estes
RSVP required for childcare - Call or Text Dan
(228) 334-2062 to reserve



Please help us to recognize when one of our staff goes above and beyond for either your family or the children placed in your home, please let us know about it by using the link below.

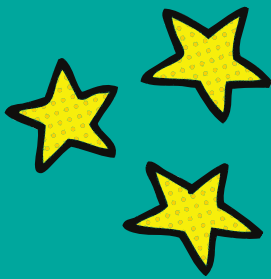


[Above and Beyond \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com)



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

If there is anything that we can do to support you, please let us know because that is what we are here for.



If you are ever unable to reach your child's caseworker or your Licensure Specialist and you need immediate assistance, always call the 24-hour hotline:

1-800-222-8000.

The information/referral specialist will contact someone and have them reach out to you as quickly as possible.

Foster Parent Liaisons

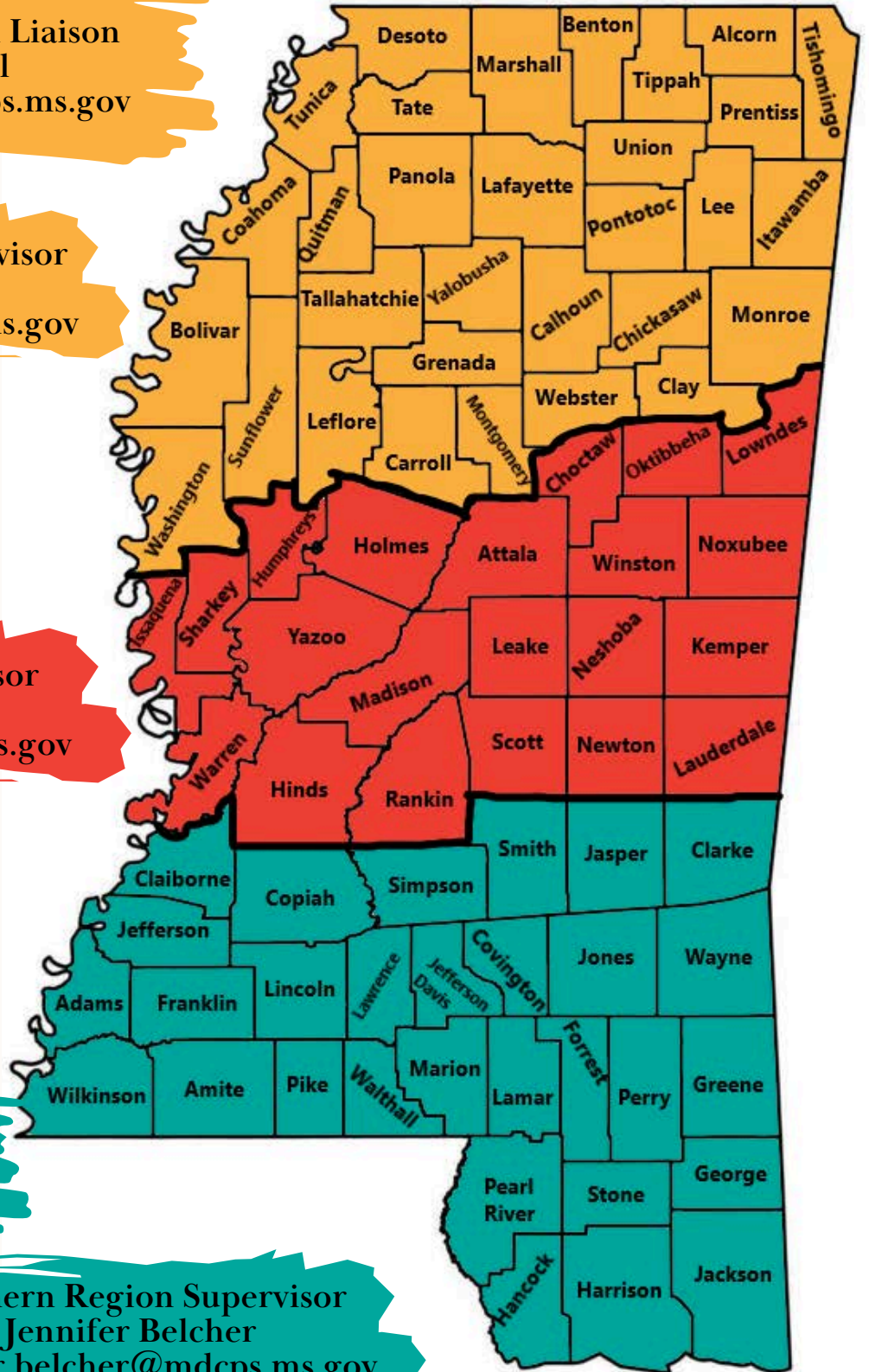
Northern Region Liaison
Jamar Bell
jamar.bell@mdcps.ms.gov

Northern Region Supervisor
Farren Brooks
farren.brooks@mdcps.ms.gov

Central Region Supervisor
Aerial Jackson
aerial.jackson@mdcps.ms.gov

Southern Region Liaison
Anna Raiola
anna.raiola@mdcps.ms.gov

Southern Region Supervisor
Jennifer Belcher
jennifer.belcher@mdcps.ms.gov





**FOSTER
PARENT
RESOURCES**

**MISSISSIPPI FOSTER PARENTS'
BILL OF RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Foster Parents' Bill of Rights, which was adopted during the 2023 Mississippi Legislative Session, provides an outline of the rights and responsibilities of foster families. The Bill of Rights became effective on July 1, 2023. You can find the full document on the MDCPS website under the Foster Parent Resources tab. There is also a link below which will take you directly to the document as well.

Foster Parents' Bill of Rights

[Foster-Parents-BOR-FINAL.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#)

FOSTER PARENT GRIEVANCE POLICY



In 2023 the new Foster Parent Grievance Policy and Procedures came out. There is a link on the MDCPS website which will take you to a fillable form that submits directly to the Foster Parent Liaisons and Supervisors. The form is a DocuSign form and is located on the website under the Foster Parent Resources tab. Direct links to the policy and the grievance form are below.

Steps to completing the form:

- 1) Access the grievance DocuSign form and enter your contact information
- 2) Complete all the necessary information
- 3) Sign the form
- 4) Click on “Finish” at the bottom of the document to complete the form and have it send to the Liaisons and their Supervisors

Foster parent grievance policy

[Foster Parent Grievance Policy_\(1\).pdf\(ms.gov\)](#)

This link takes you directly to the DocuSign form to file a grievance

[DocuSign](#)

FOSTER PARENT GRIEVANCE FORM



Foster Parent Grievance

Name of Filer Full Name

Address:

City: State: Postal Code:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

County Involved

Names of Case Workers Involved

Area Service Manager: Names of parent/caretaker of any involved children

Grievance Concerns (list the names of any children or adults related to the grievance)

Description of Grievance:

Signature of Filer



Date Signed: 10/19/2023 | 10:10 AM CDT

****Complete the attached form to file a grievance regarding the Foster Parent Bill of Rights or the foster parent responsibilities in Mississippi Code Section 43-15-13. This form will be automatically filed once all required fields are completed, the form is signed, and Finish is selected. An MDCPS representative will make contact once the grievance has been reviewed.**

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JUNE IS NATIONAL
*Reunification
Month*

Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
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