

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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February 18, 1982

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE 1-20-82

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS  
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES  
ALL DSS ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: Recent Legislation Regarding Court Adoption Records

This is to provide current information regarding AB 1023 relative to court adoption records which became effective January 1, 1982, and a proposed amendment to AB 2272 (Waters) which is designed to correct the provision of AB 1023 that all court adoption records except the petition for and order of adoption may be destroyed.

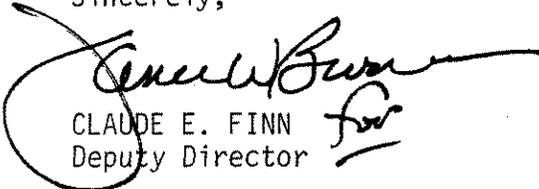
AB 1023 makes amendments and additions to the Government Code allowing the destruction of various types of city and county records. The legislation permits a county clerk to destroy all adoption records, except the petition for and court order of adoption, after 5 years have elapsed since the proceeding. The bill specifically provides that the county clerk may microfilm the petition and court order of adoption only and may destroy the remainder of the court adoption record.

To change this, Assemblyman John E. Thurman has indicated that an urgency amendment to AB 2272 (Waters), will be introduced which will provide that court adoption records will be microfilmed prior to their destruction and that this microfilm will be permanently retained. This would apply to all court adoption records, instead of only the petition for and order of adoption. The amendment is intended to return adoption records to their status quo under the Government Code prior to the signing of AB 1023.

All county clerks have been advised of the proposed amendment in a letter dated October 23, 1981 from Assemblyman Thurman who urged them not to implement AB 1023 because of his intention to correct the bill by introducing an amendment to AB 2272 which is an urgency measure in the 1982 legislative session. We will advise agencies of the action taken by the legislature on the bill.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact your adoption program consultant.

Sincerely,

  
CLAUDE E. FINN  
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA