

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

January 6, 1983



ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-03-83

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

SUBJECT: PROHIBITION OF "MEANS TEST" IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR  
ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

This notice is to remind you of the provisions of current state and federal Adoption Assistance Program regulations which prohibit the use of income eligibility requirements ("means tests") in determining eligibility for adoption assistance payments (CAC Section 30667 (b) and 45 CFR 1356.40 (d)). Under this provision income eligibility guidelines which determine parental eligibility for adoption assistance may not be applied; however, guidelines which are used, in conjunction with the needs of the child, to determine the amount of assistance, are permissible if used with flexibility in order not to arbitrarily exclude families from participating in the Adoption Assistance Program.

Adoption agencies which employ income guidelines pertaining to the amount of adoption assistance payments in the Adoption Assistance Program should submit their plans for the use of such guidelines to the Department for review and approval. These guidelines should be sent to the Department by February 1, 1983.

Questions regarding this information notice should be directed to your adoption program consultant.

  
CLAUDE FINN

Deputy Director  
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA