

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, M.S. 19-31  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-9124



December 14, 1984

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE 1-110-84

TO: All County Welfare Departments  
All Public and Private Adoption Agencies  
All SDSS Adoption District Offices

SUBJECT: Status of the Adoption Reform Project

This is to provide a status report on the Department of Social Services (DSS) Adoption Reform Project. The project was initiated in November, 1983 to streamline the policies and procedures of three adoption programs: Intercountry, Relinquishment and Independent. The project was designed to identify and reform adoption program statutes, policies and procedures that may impede the adoption process.

Intercountry Adoption Program

After a review of program needs and problems was completed, legislation was introduced (AB 2832, Leonard) in February, 1984. This bill was signed into law (Chapter 1116, Statutes of 1984) on September 13, 1984, and became effective on that date. Major provisions include:

- 1) The termination of intercountry adoption services by public adoption agencies.
- 2) Clarification of the responsibility of adoption agencies and/or adopting parents for the care, custody, control and support of the child prior to completion of the adoption.
- 3) A requirement that DSS develop and implement intercountry adoption program regulations.
- 4) A requirement that adopting parents file a petition to adopt within 30 days of the child's arrival in California.

The Department is in the process of developing regulations as required by AB 2832 and these will be filed as emergency regulations. The projected implementation date is January 11, 1985.

Independent Adoption Program

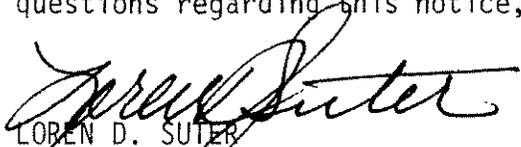
Adoption questionnaires related to barriers in the independent adoption process were provided to all licensed county adoption agencies providing independent adoption services and SDSS District Offices. Subsequently, group interviews were

held to discuss the issues raised in the questionnaires. Adoptions Branch staff received 49 completed questionnaires and interviewed 57 persons. Based upon an analysis of the data, staff has recently developed a draft of proposed recommendations for reform in the independent adoption program. The proposals will be distributed to adoption agencies for review and comment following the Department's approval.

#### Relinquishment Adoption Program

Adoption questionnaires related to barriers in the relinquishment adoption process were sent to all licensed county adoption agencies. Staff received 163 completed questionnaires from a mailing of 323. Interviews were held with adoption workers and supervisors in selected public adoption agencies, and based upon an analysis of the data, numerous issues have been identified for potential reform. A draft of proposed recommendations has been developed. The proposals will be distributed to adoption agencies for review and comment following the Department's approval.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance with this project. This endeavor should result in better services to children. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Mr. Tom Burke at (916) 445-9124.

  
LOREN D. SUTER  
Deputy Director  
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA