

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-5330



July 10, 1984

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I- 65-84

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

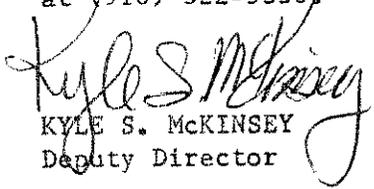
SUBJECT: INVALID BIRTH CERTIFICATES

REFERENCE:

The State recently received the attached information from the Social Security Administration's Office of Family Assistance (OFA) warning of an increased probability that invalid birth certificates will be presented to public agencies.

MPP 42-111, Evidence of Age, provides that determination of a child's age shall be based on acceptable evidence which the county determines to be substantive and genuine. First among the many acceptable kinds of evidence listed in this section of the manual are birth certificate and birth record. Extra care should now be taken in determining that this type of evidence is both substantive and genuine, in view of the increased likelihood that invalid evidence will be presented.

If you have any questions, please call the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 322-5330.


KYLE S. MCKINSEY
Deputy Director

Attachment

cc: CWDA

**Aid to Families
with Dependent Children (AFDC)
Action Transmittal**

U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Social Security Administration
Office of Family Assistance

Transmittal No. SSA-AT-84-10

Date May 11, 1984

INFORMATION

TO : STATE AGENCIES ADMINISTERING APPROVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PLANS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT : Invalid Birth Certificates

CONTENTS: A number of organizations, including hospitals, have been offering partially completed or blank birth certificates in response to public interest for dolls and other similar toys that offer "adoption papers." We have also become aware of situations where blank birth certificates have been stolen.

Accurate and verifiable birth information is essential in determining entitlement in State AFDC programs and programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The acceptance of fraudulently obtained or otherwise invalid birth certificates that give the appearance of being "official" can seriously compromise the integrity of these programs. Thus, States are advised to use caution in determining the acceptability of evidence for eligibility factors associated with birth verification.

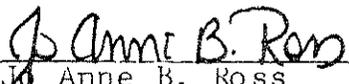
SSA has taken several steps to counteract this problem. One is to revise the Welfare Enumeration Manual to reflect stricter evidentiary requirements. Applicants who allege birth in the United States will be asked to submit a U. S. public record of birth established before age 5 which is issued by a State or local Bureau of Vital Statistics. If one is not readily available, or it does not exist, or the applicant is foreign born, the applicant will be asked to submit other evidence of age established before age 5. If none of these records exist, alternative evidence is then requested as specified in the Enumeration Manual. Coding changes will also be issued with this revision.

All States, whether or not they have an agreement with SSA to take applications for Social Security Numbers should contact their SSA District Offices for information on this problem as well as secure an updated listing of organizations with questionable certification procedures. Where indications exist that a "birth certificate" may be invalid, the agency should request other preferred evidence of age or verify the birth with the State or local Bureau of Vital Statistics. State and Federal Quality Control will also be guided by this criteria in verifying eligibility and payment status of sample cases.

The following list of the most recent incidents is provided for your information:

- o Hospitals in Iowa issued over 3,500 certificates nationally in response to their offer to provide such documents upon request. Certificates have most of the characteristics of authentic forms except the seal reads "Century Seal" instead of "Birth Certificate."
- o A Medina, Ohio agency reported the loss of pads of unnumbered birth certificates which are now appearing in neighboring areas of Kentucky and Pennsylvania.
- o Blank birth certificates are reported missing from a Lakewood, New Jersey, Bureau of Vital Statistics.
- o A Maryland hospital is offering "birth certificates" to persons making a contribution to the hospital's auxiliary fund.

INQUIRIES TO: Regional Administrators, OFA


 Jo Anne B. Ross
 Associate Commissioner
 for Family Assistance