

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 16, 1986

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-116-86

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS
ALL COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENTS
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

SUBJECT: 1986 CHAPTERED LEGISLATION RELATED
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The following information summarizes some issues related or of specific interest to child welfare services (CWS) which were addressed in bills enacted into law during 1986 and which become effective on January 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted. This summary is for informational purposes and is in addition to the description of issues that have a more direct bearing on delivery of services and implementation steps addressed in other specific All County Letters (ACL) and All County Information Notices (ACIN) regarding recently enacted child welfare services legislation.

The new statutory provisions are summarized as follows:

Chapter 71 (A.B. 360) amends Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 300 to prohibit adjudgment of a child as a court dependent solely due to a lack of family emergency shelter. These provisions also appear in Chapter 1122 (S. B. 1195) which will be addressed specifically in a separate All County Letter.

Chapter 386 (A.B. 2648) adds WIC Section 307.4 to require expedient notification of parents whose child is removed to protective custody. The new statute also provides that the parent be informed that a form explaining the process for dependency investigations and hearings is available to the parents from various sources, including public schools, probation offices, and county welfare departments. The form is to be developed by the Judicial Council in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association.

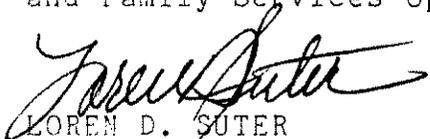
Chapter 1017 (A.B. 3327) amends the Probate Code to require, among other things, home study investigations by county welfare departments and review hearings in certain guardianship cases. (The issue of guardianship reports also was addressed in ACL 86-95, Reimbursement for Court Ordered Guardianship Reports.)

Chapter 1120 (S.B. 2531), among other things, renames "homefinding agencies" as "foster family agencies."

Chapter 1121 (A.B. 4066) amends WIC Section 319 to permit consideration by the court of a child's unwillingness to go home due to physical or sexual abuse by a person residing in the home as a reason for continued detention of the minor. These provisions also appear in Chapter 1122 (S.B. 1195) which will be addressed specifically in a separate ACL.

Chapter 1289 (A.B. 1981) amends Section 11167 of the Penal Code to provide that the identity of all persons who report suspected incidences of child abuse shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only between child protective agencies or to specified counsel, or to a licensing agency when abuse in out-of-home care is reasonably suspected, or when the child abuse reporter waives confidentiality, or by court order.

Copies of the above described statutes may be obtained from the California Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol Building, Room 332, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you have any questions regarding the topics addressed in these statutes as they relate to delivery of child welfare services, please contact your Adult and Family Services Operations consultant at (916) 445-0623.



LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA