

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 15, 1988

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-121-88

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL DSS ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: FUNDING MECHANISM TO REIMBURSE COUNTIES FOR COSTS OF
COUNSEL IN JUVENILE COURT DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS

REFERENCE: CHAPTER 1485, STATUTES OF 1987 (SB 243); CHAPTER 945,
STATUTES OF 1988 (SB 612); AND CHAPTER 944, STATUTES
OF 1988 (AB 1197)

This notice is to provide Counties with information regarding the funding mechanism to reimburse County welfare departments (CWDs) for Court-appointed counsel in juvenile court dependency proceedings.

Senate Bill (SB) 243 requires the appointment of counsel for parents and guardians in specified juvenile court dependency proceedings and requires court-appointed counsel for a minor to represent the minor in additional proceedings. These provisions are operative January 1, 1989 and contingent upon the enactment on or before January 1, 1989 of any other statute to provide funding for trial court operations and to define the term "court operations" to include the services of court-appointed counsel.

Senate Bill 612 enacted the Brown-Presley Trial Court Funding Act to provide for "block grant" State funding for trial courts on a County option basis. Senate Bill 612 also defines the term "court operations" to include court-appointed counsel in juvenile court dependency proceedings (see SB 612 Section 77003). Senate Bill 612 was effective as an urgency statute on September 16, 1988.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1197 appropriated \$206,473,000 (see Chapter 944 Legislative Digest 4) for trial court funding to implement the provisions of SB 612. Assembly Bill 1197 was effective as an urgency statute on September 16, 1988.

Senate Bill 612 and AB 1197 together provide a funding mechanism to take effect before January 1, 1989 to reimburse Counties for trial court operations and define the term "court operations" to

include court-appointed counsel in juvenile court dependency proceedings. The enactment of both SB 612 and AB 1197 therefore satisfies the contingency provisions of SB 243. For your convenience we have enclosed a copy of SB 612, AB 1197, and Legislative Counsel of California, Juvenile Court Law #18668.

These statutes establish the authority for reimbursement to Counties for costs of counsel in juvenile court proceedings as specified in SB 243. County welfare departments should immediately take appropriate steps to ensure that funds are identified through the County budget process and targeted for this purpose.

If you have any Child Welfare Services program questions, please contact your Adult and Family Services Operations consultant at (916) 445-0623 or ATSS 485-0623. Adoption Agencies, please direct your questions to your Adoption Policy consultant at (916) 322-4228 or ATSS 492-4228.



LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services

Enclosures

cc: County Welfare Directors Association