STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

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

September 11, 1992

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-45-92

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

[ ] State Law Change
[ ] Federal Law or Regulation Change
[ ] Court Order
[ ] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[X] Initiated by SDSS

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) FRAUD ALERT

REFERENCE: MPP 20-006 INCOME AND ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM (IEVS)
MPP 40-105.2 APPLICANT/RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITY
MPP 40-107.7 COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY

The purpose of this letter is to call your attention to existing SSN regulation requirements that apply to all applicants and recipients of Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) and to remind counties of the importance of adhering to those requirements.

A recent investigation conducted by the Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, revealed the use of SSNs to create false computer records of AFDC cases. It appears as though proper verification procedures were not utilized.

As you are aware, Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 40-105.2 and 40-107.7 require that each AFDC applicant or recipient member of the Assistance Unit (AU) shall, as a condition of eligibility for AFDC, furnish his/her SSN or SSNs, if more than one. If he/she cannot furnish an SSN, he/she must cooperate in securing such number by applying directly to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and submitting verification of such application to the county before aid can be authorized. When the SSN is received, it must be given to the county. These regulatory requirements are not to be circumvented or altered in any manner. To ensure the recipient is cooperating, MPP Section 40-107.73 requires the review and documentation, every 90 days, of cases pending receipt of SSNs.

MPP Section 40-107.72 requires all SSNs to be verified by SSA through IEVS in accordance with Section 20-006. IEVS is a federally mandated system by which AFDC, Food Stamps, and other programs request, exchange, and use information for the purposes of verifying eligibility for the amount of benefits. The data bases used by IEVS include the capacity to obtain SSN verification information from SSA. In order to reduce fraud and abuse in AFDC, counties should make sure that staff are using the IEVS system to verify SSNs.

We recommend counties periodically provide training to appropriate staff on existing SSN regulations and procedures that pertain to enumeration. This may help to ensure that staff are following SSN regulatory requirements. In addition, since Federal Quality Control (QC) reviews encompass enumeration, QC errors can be cited in this area. Tighter SSN controls should result in less QC errors being cited and help to prevent AFDC fraud and abuse.

If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Henry Puga of the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 654-1068 or CALNET 464-1068.

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