

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



March 8, 1993

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-10-93

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
 Federal Law or
 Regulation Change
 Court Order or
 Settlement Agreement
 Clarification Requested
 by One or More Counties
 Initiated by CDS

SUBJECT: AFDC-PERIODIC DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

REFERENCE: MPP SECTION 40-181

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification to counties regarding the maintenance of continuing AFDC cases. We have been asked what action counties can take when they become aware of a change in a recipient's circumstances or question an AFDC family in order to identify potential sources of income, before the next annual redetermination is due.

Since the county paying aid is responsible to insure payment only to eligible recipients in the correct amount, the county should take action on any fact or circumstance that might impact continuing AFDC eligibility. If a recipient's circumstances indicate that it is necessary to review certain aspects of eligibility before the next JA 2 is due, the county may interview the recipient to ask reasonable and related questions pertaining to factors of eligibility. The county may determine after the interview that a new JA 2 should be completed. Circumstances that may require an interview may include but are not limited to the following:

1. CASES WHERE AN OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE CARETAKER RELATIVE IS SANCTIONED. An otherwise eligible caretaker relative in the AU is sanctioned for failure to cooperate with child support requirements, GAIN, social security enumeration requirements, etc. Because there is a change in circumstances, i.e., less money for the family, the county may consider an interview with the recipient to review factors of eligibility. Questions in the review must be reasonable and related to eligibility factors.

If a new JA 2 is determined to be needed to update and verify eligibility, the next redetermination due date shall be adjusted accordingly.

2. CHILD(REN) ONLY CASES WHERE A NON-AIDED PAYEE/PARENT HAS NO MEANS OF SUPPORT. In some situations a parent(s) is statutorily excluded from the AU; however, there is no declared or apparent source of income for the parent. To ensure that circumstances are reported appropriately by the household and aid payments are correct, counties may interview the recipient to review factors of eligibility prior to deciding whether a new JA 2 needs to be completed. In these situations, the county may want to periodically check living expenses as compared to total household income. As in example (1) above, the review could be done in addition to the annual redetermination and monthly CA 7 reviews.

In order to detect and prevent fraud, additional determinations may be made as necessary if unexpected changes in income, property or other circumstances occur which may affect eligibility or grant levels. When the county discovers conflicting and/or inconsistent information, the recipient should be contacted and given an opportunity to clarify the issue. Failure of the recipient to respond to a county request for clarification could be considered a failure to cooperate in determining continued eligibility and could result in discontinuance of aid for the family.

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.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL C. GENEST
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division