

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

March 31, 1997



ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-19-97

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
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC)  
CASE INFORMATION TO COURTS

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2667, CHAPTER 888, STATUTES OF 1996

The purpose of this notice is to provide counties with information regarding the release of AFDC case information.

AB 2667 amends Government Code Section 68511.3 which relates to proceedings *in forma pauperis*, i.e., the right of an indigent person to pursue a judicial remedy without liability for court costs. This code section provides that permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* be granted to litigants who are receiving benefits pursuant to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, as well as several other programs.

AB 2667 provides that litigants who are receiving public benefits and who apply to proceed *in forma pauperis* must declare under penalty of perjury that they are receiving such benefits and may voluntarily provide their social security number to the court to facilitate verification of the receipt of public assistance. However, this provision does not comply with confidentiality provisions in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10850 and with Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 19-004, Release of Confidential Information, which prohibits counties from releasing case information without signed authorization from the recipient. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is currently working with the Judicial Council to resolve the inconsistency between the provisions of AB 2667 and current rules of

confidentiality. In the meantime, despite the passage of AB 2667, counties are to continue to adhere to the confidentiality regulations. All requests for verification for receipt of AFDC must be accompanied by a signed authorization from the recipient.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Jane Laciste of the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 654-1047, Calnet prefix 464.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division