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

November 30, 2000

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-78

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CAL-LEARN PROGRAM COORDINATORS
CAL-LEARN CASE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: NICKOLS V. SAENZ SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; MAXIMUM FAMILY GRANT RULE CHANGES

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-82-00

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform county welfare departments of changes in the application of the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule. The MFG policies have been revised to comply with the Nickols v. Saenz lawsuit settlement. This lawsuit related to how CalWORKs applicants and recipients were informed about the MFG rule and how it was applied to the children of minors receiving aid in their parents' assistance units (sometimes referred to as "nested teens"). It also related to the counting of suspense and zero basic grant months as part of the two-month break in aid (during the ten months prior to the child's birth) that prevents the MFG rule from applying. Implementation examples (Attachment 1) and a summary of the MFG policy changes (Attachment 2) are attached. Counties are to implement these modifications to the MFG policy as specified below. The Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 44-314 will be amended at a later date to reflect these changes.

POLICY CHANGES - IMPLEMENTATION

Children Born to Minor Parents

Counties must remove the MFG grant reduction back to September 1, 2000, from all existing cases where the MFG rule has been applied to any child of a dependent minor parent in a CalWORKs Assistance Unit (AU). This means, the MFG rule should not be applied to any child born to a minor parent aided as a CalWORKs dependent child, if the AU did not receive either the CW 2102 (provided to counties via ACIN I-82-00) or the CW 2102A (mass mailed to all recipients in August 2000) ten months before the child's birth (these new notices state emphatically that the MFG rule applies to "nested teens"). Therefore, any child born to a dependent minor parent prior to July 1, 2001, will not be subject to MFG. Counties will begin to apply the MFG rule to any children born to a dependent minor parent who is aided in a

CalWORKs AU ten months after the CW 2102 or CW 2102A has been provided to the AU, if no other exemptions apply. (See Attachment 1 for examples.)

Counties are to identify cases that include children of minor dependent parents who had the MFG rule applied and remove the MFG grant reduction effective September 1, 2000, if they are otherwise eligible. The removal of the grant reduction only applies to months from September 2000 or later. The grant reduction is not removed for any prior months the MFG rule may have been applied.

In addition, as of September 1, 2000, any child born to a minor parent aided as a dependent in a CalWORKs AU, who had or has the MFG rule applied to them, will no longer be subject to MFG once the minor parent establishes his/her own AU. This means that MFG will no longer be applied and the needs of the former MFG child will be counted when determining eligibility. This policy applies to the children of any parents formerly aided as dependent minors when they establish their own AUs, including those who are permitted to establish their own AUs in accordance with the exemptions in MPP Section 89-201.2. A copy of the CW 2102 must be provided to these parents as part of the application process when they apply for aid in their own cases. The MFG rule will then apply to any additional children born to such a parent ten months after the CW 2102 has been provided, if no other exemptions apply. (See Attachment 1 for examples.)

To assist counties in identifying recipients who may qualify for a grant increase because they are dependent minor parents aided in a CalWORKs AU, or because they have established their own AU September 1, 2000 or later, CDSS will provide counties with a list of Cal-Learn clients whose children may have been affected by the MFG rule. It is anticipated that this list will be provided to counties soon. However, counties may begin providing retroactive payments back to September 1, 2000, to affected cases before the list is received.

<u>New Informing Notice Required to Apply MFG in the Future</u>

Except for the children of minor parents described above, the MFG rule will continue to apply to children already designated as MFG. Furthermore, any child (except for children of minor parents described above), born before November 1, 2001, will be subject to the MFG rule if appropriate notification (i.e., TEMP 2102, CW 2102 or CW 2102A) was provided at least ten months prior to the child's birth.

- The CW 2102 [or other MFG informing notice issued or approved by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)] must be provided at application and every annual redetermination. Effective **November 1, 2001**, all children born into any AU (to adult and minor parents), will be subject to the MFG rule <u>only</u> if the AU was provided one of the new informing notices (CW 2102 or CW 2102A) through the August 2000 mass mailing, at application, the most recent redetermination, or other later date that occurred at least ten months before the birth of the child. (See Attachment 1 for examples.) If the AU has been on aid long enough to have had a redetermination ten months prior to the birth of the child, then a notice must have been provided at redetermination for the MFG rule to apply.

- Effective **November 1, 2002**, counties will apply the MFG rule to any children born into an AU (to adult and minor parents) only if the case file contains a copy of the CW 2102 or other MFG informing notice issued or approved by CDSS with a written acknowledgment signed by the head of the household (a parent or non-parent caretaker relative), or documentation of their refusal to sign. To apply the MFG rule, the county must have a copy of the signed acknowledgment that was provided to the AU at the most recent redetermination or other later date at least ten months prior to the birth of the child. If the AU has not been on aid long enough to have had a redetermination ten months prior to the birth of the child, then the notice provided at application will apply. In two-parent households, both parents (or caretaker relatives) may sign the CW 2102; however, only one signature is required. If the client refuses to sign the form, counties must document their refusal, including the date, by noting it in the case file. Once their refusal is documented (thereby establishing notification), counties may apply the MFG rule to any child born to the AU ten months after notification was provided. (See Attachment 1 for examples.)

If there is no record as described above that the client was notified of the MFG rule at least ten months before the child's birth, MFG does not apply.

Count Zero Basic Grant and Suspense Months Toward Two-Month Break in Aid

The MFG rule does not apply if the AU stopped receiving aid for at least two consecutive months during the ten-month period prior to the child's birth. As of September 1, 2000, suspense and/or zero basic grant months occurring within that ten-month period, are also considered as months off aid and are to be counted toward the two-month break in aid for MFG purposes. (See Attachment 1 for examples.)

INFORMING NOTICES

CW 2102

On or about August 31, 2000, CDSS mailed the revised MFG mass informing notice (CW 2102A) to the entire active CalWORKs caseload. In addition, CDSS released the revised MFG informing notice (CW 2102) to counties via ACIN I-82-00. The CW 2102 includes the information provided in the CW 2102A as well as a written acknowledgment of receipt to be signed by recipients at redetermination and applicants at application (including those returning from a break in aid). The August mass mailing of the CW 2102A was sent to all CalWORKs recipients determined eligible as of July 1, 2000. Counties must make certain that all applicants and recipients, who would not have received the August mass mailing because their eligibility was determined after July 1, 2000, are informed about the MFG rule using the CW 2101 or CW 2101A form. The date the client was informed must be documented in the case file. ACIN I-82-00 serves as documentation for the August mass mailing initiated by CDSS. Counties are required to use the CW 2102 on an on-going basis to explain the MFG rule to applicants at application and recipients at redetermination. The county is to have the applicant/recipient sign and date the acknowledgment of receipt at the bottom of the notice, provide a signed copy to the applicant/recipient, and retain a copy in the case file. As noted above, refusal to sign the acknowledgment of receipt does not nullify the notification, as long as it is documented in the case file.

TEMP 2188

In addition, within 60 days of the receipt of this ACL, counties are to distribute the attached informing notice, TEMP 2188, to all AUs that include an MFG child (or to the entire caseload, if this population cannot be identified). The TEMP 2188 informs clients that:

1) They may be entitled to an increase in benefits effective September 1, 2000, if the AU includes a child born to a minor parent aided as a dependent in the CalWORKs AU, who is currently subject to MFG;

2) They may be entitled to an increase in benefits effective September 1, 2000, if the MFG rule was applied to their child when they were a dependent minor parent in a CalWORKs AU, and are now the head of their own AU;

3) They are entitled to request a hearing if the MFG rule was applied to the AU and they were not informed about the MFG rule in writing at least ten months prior to the minor child's birth;

4) The MFG rule does not apply if for at least two consecutive months during the ten-month period before the child's birth, the AU experienced a break in aid; and that as of September 1, 2000, suspense and/or zero basic grant months are also counted towards a break in aid. The head of the household is entitled to request a hearing if they believe this applies to them; and

5) They may contact the County Welfare Department for further information.

NOTICES OF ACTION

Attached are MFG Notice of Action (NOA) messages M44-314, M44-314A, and M44-314B. These NOA messages have been revised to provide additional information regarding MFG exemptions, and to provide a space to record the date the recipient/applicant was informed in writing of the MFG rule. Counties must begin to use the 11/00 revision of these messages immediately and must ensure that the most recent date the client was notified of the MFG rule is indicated on the NOA. Also attached are the TEMP NA 306 and NA 281 for issuing corrective underpayments to recipients who, as a result of this court order, are no longer subject to the MFG rule. Corrective underpayments are to be paid retroactively from September 1, 2000.

FORMS/TRANSLATIONS

To obtain a camera-ready copy of the TEMP NA 306, NA 281 or TEMP 2188 in English, please contact the Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1907 or by e-mail at fmu@dss.ca.gov. The TEMP NA 306, TEMP 2188, and the revised NOA messages translated into Spanish, Russian, Cambodian, Chinese, and Vietnamese will be provided to counties by Language Translation Services under separate cover. Translated copies of the NA 281 were previously released to county form coordinators. However, additional copies may be obtained by contacting Language Translation Services at the number listed below. Each county must provide bilingual/interpretive services and written translations to non-English or limited

English speaking populations as required by the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Government Code Section 7290 et seq.) and by State regulations in Manual of Policies and Procedures, Division 21, Civil Rights Nondiscrimination, Section 115. For additional translated copies of the attached implementation documents, please contact Language Translation Services by telephone at (916) 654-1282 or by e-mail at LTS@dss.ca.gov.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Nickols Implementation Examples
Attachment 2 – Summary of MFG Policy Changes
Attachment 3 – List of Key Implementation Dates
NOA message M44-314 (11/00) – Basic approval with MFG applied
NOA message M44-314A (11/00) – Deny increase, MFG applied
NOA message M44-314B (11/00) – Increase aid, MFG exemption
Notice of Action –TEMP NA 306 (11/00) – Retroactive reimbursement to 9/1/00
Notice of Action – NA 281 (4/00) – Continuation Page
Informing Notice – TEMP 2188 (11/00) – Notification of MFG rule changes
Informing Notice – CW 2102 (8/00) – MFG notification form with acknowledgement
Informing Notice – CW 2102A (7/00) – MFG notification form

CONTACTS

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding MFG policy, please contact Elizabeth Allred at (916) 657-3350. For questions related to forms, messages or the Nickols v. Saenz lawsuit settlement, please contact Paulette Stokes at (916) 654-3386.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Bruce Wagstaff
on November 30, 2000
BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Attachments

c: CWDA
CSAC

NICKOLS IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

Children Born to Minor Parents

- Cathy is a 17-year-old minor parent who was aided as a dependent in her mother's assistance unit (AU). The MFG rule was applied to her baby born on 7/31/00. The application of the MFG rule for that child ended effective 9/1/00. Counties must provide back cash aid to 9/1/00, if otherwise eligible.

- Katisha became pregnant when she was a dependent in her mother's AU. The baby is born on April 30, 2001. Because Katisha's baby was born less than ten months after the AU received either the CW 2102 or the CW 2102A, the MFG rule would not be applied to her child.

- Carlotta is a 16-year-old minor who was aided as a dependent in her mother's AU. She became pregnant in November 2000. Her baby was born in September 2001. The AU received the CW 2101A in August 2000. Because she had her baby over ten months after the AU received the CW 2102A, the MFG rule would be applied to her child, if no other exemptions apply.

- Carlotta, from the previous example, turns 18 in November 2003. She applies and is eligible for her own CalWORKs case. The MFG rule would no longer be applied to her child.

New Informing Notice Required To Apply MFG In The Future

- Philip, a CalWORKs recipient since October 1998, was provided and signed the CW 2102 at his redetermination interview on November 2, 2000. On the October 2001 monthly report, Philip reported the birth of another child with a date of birth of October 3, 2001. Since Philip had been provided a written copy of the CW 2102 at least ten months prior to the birth of the child, MFG would apply to this child, if no other exemptions apply.

- Isabel became a CalWORKs recipient on July 1, 2002. In July 2003, Isabel had her redetermination interview. In January 2004, Isabel had a child. When determining if the MFG rule would be applied, it was discovered that there was no copy of a signed CW 2102 in the case file (or documentation of her refusal to sign), nor was there any other appropriate informing document with a signed acknowledgment in the file. The MFG rule would not be applied to Isabel's child. Beginning November 2002, MFG applies only if a written acknowledgment signed by the head of the household at application and at the most recent annual redetermination (or documentation of their refusal to sign) is in the case file.

Count Zero Basic Grant (ZBG) And Suspense Months Toward The Two-Month Break In Aid

- Bobbie has been a CalWORKs recipient since 1998. She had a baby in October 2001. In April 2001, Bobbie had a suspense month because of excess income. In May 2001, Bobbie had a ZBG month because her grant was less than $10. The MFG rule would not be applied to her baby because she had a two-month break in aid during the ten months prior to the birth of the baby.

NICKOLS V. SAENZ SETTLEMENT

SUMMARY OF MFG POLICY CHANGES

The following policy changes are in effect as of September 1, 2000:

- MFG does not apply to any child born to a dependent minor parent ("nested teen") prior to July 2001.
- After July 2001, MFG applies to children of "nested teens" only until the teen becomes the head of their own assistance unit.
- The new MFG notice (CW 2102) must now be used to inform all families.
- The CW 2102 must be provided to and signed by the head of the household at application, and annually at redetermination.
- After November 2001, MFG applies only if the CW 2102 was provided to the assistance unit at least ten months before a child's birth.
- After November 2002, MFG applies only if a written acknowledgment signed by the head of the household at application and at the most recent annual redetermination (or documentation of their refusal to sign) is in the case file.
- As of September 1, 2000, zero basic grant and suspense months are not counted as months on aid for MFG purposes.
- Counties must determine what date the MFG informing notice was given to the client before applying MFG.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION DATES

NICKOLS V. SAENZ

Date CDSS mailed mass informing notice (CW 2102A):	August 31, 2000
Effective date of revised Maximum Family Grant policy:	September 1, 2000
Date counties must complete distribution of TEMP 2188 to recipients:	Sixty days from the date of this ACL
Beginning date MFG may be applied to dependent minor parents:	July 1, 2001
Beginning date that Maximum Family Grant only applies to AUs that were provided the CW 2102 or CW 2102A at least ten months prior to the child's birth and at redetermination:	November 1, 2001
Beginning date that Maximum Family Grant only applies to AUs whose case file contains a signed copy (or documentation of their refusal to sign) of the MFG informing notice (CW 2102) provided at application or most recent redetermination:	November 1, 2002

Action : Approval
Issue: Aid Payments
Title: Maximum Family Grant

Auto ID No.:
Source :
Issued by :
Reg Cite : 44-171.2, 44-314, 44-315.8 & .9, 44-317

Use Form No. : NA 200
Original Date : 04/01/97
Revision Date : 11/01/00

MESSAGE:

As of _____, the County has approved your cash aid and Medi-Cal. Your first day of cash aid is _____. Your first month's cash aid amount is $_____.

Your cash aid payment does not include _____, but he/she is eligible for Medi-Cal and Food Stamps.

Here's why:

The child was born into a family that got cash aid for ten months in a row right before his/her birth.

The Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule says that the child must meet one of the following exemptions to be included in the cash aid payment:

- You were not told in writing about the MFG rule at least ten months before the child's birth.
- The child is not living with either parent.
- The child was conceived while either parent was an unaided non-parent caretaker relative.
- The child was born as a result of birth control failure, incest, or rape.
- Your family's aid was stopped for at least two months in a row during the ten-month period before the child's birth. Months that your cash aid payment was suspended (stopped for one month) and/or lowered to $0.00, also count towards a two-month break in aid.

The child does not meet any of these exemptions.

You were told about the MFG rule
in writing on _____.

[ ] The cash aid payment for your first month of aid is only for a part of a month. It is for the time from your first day of cash aid, shown above, through the end of the month. If nothing changes, next month's cash aid will be for a full month.

[ ] You asked for an Immediate Need payment. Your immediate need is being met with a payment of your first month's cash aid within the immediate need time limit of one working day.

Your cash aid is figured on this page.

INSTRUCTIONS: Use to approve a case when Maximum Family Grant rules apply. Check the applicable box(es).

This message replaces M44-314 dated 09/01/97.

Action : Other
Issue: Aid Payments
Title: Maximum Family Grant

Auto ID No.:
Source :
Issued by :
Reg Cite : 44-314, 44-315.8 & .9

Use Form No. : NA 290
Original Date : 04/01/97
Revision Date : 11/01/00

MESSAGE:

As of _____, the County has received your request to add _____ to your assistance unit. Your cash aid will not go up, but the child can get Medi-Cal and Food Stamps.

Here's why:

The child was born into a family that got cash aid for 10 months in a row right before his/her birth.

The Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule says that the child must meet one of the following exemptions to be included in the cash aid payment:

- You were not told in writing about the MFG rule at least ten months before the child’s birth.
- The child is not living with either parent.
- The child was conceived while either parent was an unaided non-parent caretaker relative.
- The child was born as a result of birth control failure, incest, or rape.
- Your family’s cash aid was stopped for at least two months in a row during the ten-month period before the child’s birth. Months that your cash aid payment was suspended (stopped for one month) and/or lowered to $0.00, also count towards a two-month break in aid.

The child does not meet any of these exemptions.

You were told you about the MFG rule in writing on _____.

INSTRUCTIONS: Use when a child is added to the case, but the cash aid does not change since Maximum Family Grant rules apply. The child is still eligible for Medi-Cal and Food Stamps.

This message replaces M44-314A dated 09/01/97.

File: pstokes/mseries/44314a.doc

State of California
Department of Social Services

Noa Msg Doc No.: M44-314B
Action : Change
Issue: Aid Payments
Title: Maximum Family Grant

Auto ID No.:
Source :
Issued by :
Reg Cite : 44-314, 44-315.8 & .9

Use Form No. : NA 200
Original Date : 04/01/97
Revision Date : 11/01/00

MESSAGE:

As of _____ the County is changing your cash aid from $_____ to $_____.

Here's why:

The child born into your family is exempt from the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule. The MFG rule says that aid does not go up for a child born into a family that got cash aid for ten months in a row right before his/her birth unless they are exempt.

The child meets the exemption(s) checked below and she/he can be included in the cash aid payment:

[ ] You were not told in writing about the MFG rule at least ten months before the child's birth.

[ ] The child is not living with either parent.

[ ] The child was conceived while either parent was an unaided non-parent caretaker relative.

[ ] The child was born as a result of birth control failure, incest, or rape.

[ ] Your family's cash aid was stopped for at least two months in a row during the ten-month period before the child's birth. Months that your cash aid payment was suspended (stopped for one month) and/or lowered to $0.00, also count towards a two-month break in aid.

Your new cash aid amount is figured on this page.

INSTRUCTIONS: Use to change cash aid when it is determined that a child is exempt from the Maximum Family Grant rule.

This message replaces M44-314B dated 04/01/97.

File: pstokes/mseries/44314b

NOTICE OF ACTION

COUNTY OF

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice Date : _____
Case
Name : _____
Number : _____
Worker
Name : _____
Number : _____
Telephone: _____
Address : _____

(ADDRESSEE)

Questions? Ask your Worker.

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how. Your benefits may not be changed if you ask for a hearing before this action takes place.

Because of a change in the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule, as of _____, the county has approved your back cash aid of $ _____.

HERE'S WHY:

A court says that if the MFG rule was applied to a child of a dependent minor parent, your family's cash aid payment will now include the child, starting with the September 2000 payment month.

A court also says that if the MFG rule was applied to your child when you were a dependent minor parent, and you are now the head of your own assistance unit, your child will be included in your cash aid payment beginning September 2000.

Your back cash aid is figured on the next page.

☐ A check will be sent soon.

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ You have an overpayment balance. Your back cash aid will be subtracted from the amount you still owe.

You will get another notice about your regular cash aid.

If you get Food Stamps, we will count your back cash aid as a resource. You may get another notice from Food Stamps.

Rules: These rules apply; you may review them at your welfare office: Nickols v. Saenz

NOTICE OF ACTION
(Continued)

COUNTY OF

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice Date : _____
Case Name : _____
Number : _____
Worker Name : _____
Number : _____

Underpayment Amount Owed
(For Underpayments Occurring on or after 1-1-98)

Underpayment Month and Year:						
(A) **Net Countable Income**						
Total Business Income	$					
Business Expenses						
a. 40% Standard OR	–					
b. Actual	–					
Net Earnings from Self Employment	=					
Total Disability-Based Unearned Income (Assistance Unit (AU) + Non Assistance Unit (Non-AU) Members)	$					
$225 Disregard	–					
Nonexempt Unearned Disability-Based Income OR	=					
Unused Amount of $225 Disregard	=					
Total Earned Income	$					
Net Earnings from Self-Employment (from above)	+					
Subtotal	=					
Unused Amount of $225 Disregard	–					
Subtotal	=					
Earned Income Disregard 50%	–					
Subtotal	=					
Nonexempt Unearned Disability-Based Income (from above)	+					
Other Nonexempt Income (AU + Non-AU Members)	+					
Net Countable Income	=					
(B) **Correct Cash Aid Payment**						
Maximum Aid Payment (# persons) $ Amount (AU + Non-AU Members)		( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Special Needs (AU + Non-AU Members)	+					
Net Countable Income From Section A	–					
Subtotal A	=					
Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) (AU Only)	$					
Special Needs (AU only)	+					
Subtotal B	=					
Correct Cash Aid Amount **(Lesser of Subtotal A or B)**	$					
(C) **Child Support Penalty Adjustment**						
25% Child Support Penalty	–					
Subtotal C	=					
(D) **Adjustments**						
a. Additional 25% Child Support Penalty	–					
b. Overpayment	–					
c. Cal-Learn Penalty	–					
d. Cal-Learn Bonus	+					
Adjusted Cash Aid: **Subtotal D**	=					
(E) **Underpayment**						
Correct Cash Aid Amount	$					
Cash Aid Paid To You	–					
Subtotal E	=					
Amount of Underpayment for Each Month	=					

Rules: These rules apply; you may review them at your Welfare Office: MPP 44-340.
State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of Page 1 tells how.

TOTAL UNDERPAYMENT (All Months) $ _____

MAXIMUM FAMILY GRANT RULE HAS CHANGED

Beginning September 1, 2000, your cash aid may go up if:

- Your Assistance Unit includes a child born to a dependent minor under the age of 18 (or under age 19, if a full-time student expected to earn a diploma or its equivalent by age 19) and your cash aid did not go up after this child's birth. For example, Cathy is a 17-year-old minor parent who was aided as a dependent in her mother's Assistance Unit (AU). The MFG rule was applied to her baby born on 7/31/00. The application of the MFG rule for that child ended effective 9/1/00. The County must provide back cash aid to 9/1/00, if otherwise eligible.

- The MFG rule was applied to your child when you were a dependent minor parent, and you are now the head of your own Assistance Unit.

YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR COUNTY WELFARE OFFICE TO FIND OUT IF YOU CAN GET MORE CASH AID.

This is also to inform you that you may request a hearing if your Assistance Unit includes a child who had the MFG rule applied and:

- The Assistance Unit was not told about the MFG rule in writing at least ten months before the birth of the child.

- OR -

- Your family's aid was stopped for at least two months in a row during the ten-month period right before the birth of your child. Beginning **September 1, 2000**, for MFG the two-month break in aid also includes months that your cash aid was suspended (stopped for one month) and/or lowered to zero.

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY WELFARE OFFICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Maximum Family Grant (MFG) Rule for Recipients of Cash Aid

The MFG Rule:

Your maximum aid payment (MAP) **will not** go up to include a child born to your family, if any member of your family got cash aid for the 10 months in a row right before the child's birth.

This rule applies to any member of your family, including any child who becomes a parent.

Cash aid will not go up when:

- You or any adult on the case have gotten cash aid for ten months in a row before the baby is born.
- Your child has gotten cash aid for ten months in a row before he or she has a baby.
- Any of your children got cash aid for ten months in a row before the baby is born, even if you are not getting cash aid for yourself.

This baby will still be eligible for:

- Other CalWORKs benefits, such as child care when the parent goes to work.
- Medi-Cal.
- Food Stamps.

Child support payments for the new baby will be paid to your family and will not be counted as income for cash aid.

The MFG rule will not apply:

- If your family was off cash aid for at least two months in a row during the 10 months before the birth of the child.
- Once the whole family has been off cash aid for 24 months in a row, or the baby goes to live with someone else.
- If no adult in your family received written notice of the MFG rule at least ten months before the birth of the child.
- When a parent, whose MFG child was born while the parent was a minor, becomes head of his/her own Assistance Unit. Example: Selena gets aid for herself and her 17-year-old daughter, Rose. If Rose has a baby while on aid, the family's grant will not go up if the MFG rule applies. When Rose turns 18 or moves out, she can apply for aid for herself and her baby.
- To a baby born to someone who gets aid for children but not for herself or himself, if the person is not the parent of the children getting aid. Example: if an aunt gets CalWORKs only for her niece and then the aunt has her own baby, the MFG rule will not apply to the aunt's baby.
- If the child was conceived because of rape or incest. You must report the rape or incest no later than three months after the birth of the child to a: medical or mental health professional; or social services agency; or law enforcement agency.

  In the case of incest, you do not need to report if paternity has been established.
- If the child was conceived because of the failure of one of these kinds of birth control:
  - IUD (an intrauterine device), Norplant, Depo-Provera or
  - the sterilization of either parent.

  You must give medical proof of any failure of a listed birth control method.

- **I have read this notice or have had it read to me, and I understand that I will not get more cash aid for a baby born ten months after my family goes on cash aid. This may include babies born to myself or my child.**
- **I understand that I must explain this rule to any family member of any age who can get pregnant or become a parent, and I understand that the rule applies whether or not I explain it to my minor child, spouse, or the other parent of the child.**

Signature of Caretaker Relative	Date

YOUR FAMILY'S CASH AID MAY NOT GO UP IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAS A NEW BABY

The Maximum Family Grant (MFG) Rule: Your maximum aid payment (MAP) will not go up to include a child born to your family, if any member of your family got cash aid for the 10 months in a row right before the child's birth.

This rule applies to any member of your family, including any child who becomes a parent.

Cash aid will not go up when:

- You or any adult on the case have gotten cash aid for ten months in a row before the baby is born.
- Your child has gotten cash aid for ten months in a row before he or she has a baby.
- Any of your children got cash aid for ten months in a row before the baby is born, even if you are not getting cash aid for yourself.

This baby will still be eligible for:

- Other CalWORKs benefits, such as child care when the parent goes to work.
- Medi-Cal.
- Food Stamps.

Child support payments for the new baby will be paid to your family and will not be counted as income for cash aid.

- 若需本通知的翻譯本，請和你的工作員聯絡。 (Chinese)
- សំរាប់សេចក្ដីបកប្រែនៃប្រកាសនេះ សូមទាក់ទងទៅអ្នកកាន់សំណុំរឿងរបស់លោកអ្នក ។ (Cambodian)
- **Для перевода этого извещения обратитесь к работнику.** (Russian)
- **Để có bản dịch của thông báo này, xin liên lạc với nhân viên phụ trách hồ sơ của quý vị.** (Vietnamese)

The MFG rule will not apply:

- If your family was off cash aid for at least two months in a row during the 10 months before the birth of the child.
- Once the whole family has been off cash aid for 24 months in a row, or the baby goes to live with someone else.
- If no adult in your family received written notice of the MFG rule at least ten months before the birth of the child.
- When a parent, whose MFG child was born while the parent was a minor, becomes head of his/her own Assistance Unit. Example: Selena gets aid for herself and her 17-year-old daughter, Rose. If Rose has a baby while on aid, the family's grant will not go up if the MFG rule applies. When Rose turns 18 or moves out, she can apply for aid for herself and her baby.
- To a baby born to someone who gets aid for children but not for herself or himself, if the person is not the parent of the children getting aid. Example: if an aunt gets CalWORKs only for her niece and then the aunt has her own baby, the MFG rule will not apply to the aunt's baby.
- If the child was conceived because of rape or incest. You must report the rape or incest no later than three months after the birth of the child to a: medical or mental health professional; or social services agency; or law enforcement agency.

  In the case of incest, you do not need to report if paternity has been established.
- If the child was conceived because of the failure of one of these kinds of birth control:

  - IUD (an intrauterine device), Norplant, Depo-Provera or
  - the sterilization of either parent.

  You must give medical proof of any failure of a listed birth control method.