

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



March 4, 1980

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 80-17

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION REFUGEE SERVICES

SUBJECT: UNACCOMPANIED MINOR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM PROCEDURES

The purpose of this letter is to clarify procedures for resettling unaccompanied minors coming into this country for the first time and to identify areas of responsibility for Voluntary Organizations (VOLAGS), County Welfare Departments (CWD), and the Department of Social Services (DSS) involved in the resettlement process.

VOLAG RESPONSIBILITIES

Before VOLAG releases an unaccompanied refugee minor for placement in a community, the local office of the VOLAG shall consult with the county welfare department to:

1. Insure a smooth transition of responsibility for custody and care of the minor.
2. Coordinate date, time, and place of the minor's arrival.
3. Share biographical information and other pertinent facts to increase the probabilities of selecting the best placement.

After the county welfare department makes its decision to accept a minor for placement the VOLAG shall forward the minor's biographical data within 30 days of placement to the Specialized Programs Bureau, 744 P Street, M.S. 9-105, Sacramento, CA 95814. Data to be included is:

1. Name
2. Age
3. Date of birth
4. Sex
5. Date of placement
6. Address of placement
7. Social Security Number
8. Alien Number
9. Legal status (Section 300 Guardianship pending)
10. Country of origin
11. Ethnicity.

COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In anticipation of, or upon agreement to place an unaccompanied refugee minor in a county, the welfare department shall:

1. Initiate arrangements to establish legal responsibility for the custody and maintenance of the child. Responsibility is established in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300, or the Probate Code Section 1440.
2. Initiate Out-of-Home Care placement and services on behalf of the child.
3. Ensure that the intended foster home or group facility is licensed.
4. Provide the same range of child welfare benefits and services to unaccompanied refugee minors that are available to other foster care eligible minors in the State.

An orientation for newly arriving minors should be a part of their introduction to this country. Examples of information that could be helpful to refugee minors are:

1. Benefits to which they are entitled.
2. Foster child/parent relationships.
3. Local customs and habits.
4. Resources available to aid acculturation.
5. Educational/vocational opportunities.
6. Reasons for establishing legal status.

The agency with legal responsibility shall develop and implement a plan for care and services appropriate to the child's needs as provided by Out-of-Home Services Program Regulation 30-200.

Welfare departments may contract for care and services with a private voluntary child welfare agency approved or licensed by the State. However, the public agency with legal responsibility must retain oversight responsibility for the appropriateness of the plan and reporting requirements. (MPP 10-203)

Some county welfare departments may experience situations where unaccompanied minors show up in their county without having been identified as unaccompanied refugee minors (piggy-back cases). These minors may have come in as a member of a family, and discover later to have no blood relationship with the family. In other cases, a family or person with whom the minor is staying determines that they can no longer care for the child and request he/she be removed from their home. Under those circumstances the child is subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300. The county welfare department will treat such cases in accordance with procedures established for the resettlement of unaccompanied refugee minors.

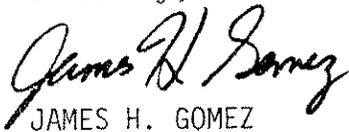
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Department of Social Services assumes the following functions:

1. Provide consultation to VOLAGS and county welfare departments to assist in resolving problems.
2. Monitor for compliance and progress.
3. Coordinate information between county welfare department programs and VOLAGS.
4. Gather data and prepare reports.

The continued appropriateness of each child's living arrangement and services shall be reviewed no less than every six months. In addition, the review reports shall be forwarded on Form CA 900 to Lee Davis, Specialized Programs Bureau, 744 P Street, M.S. 9-105, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Sincerely,



JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA

Charlotte Huffman, DHEW