STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-6907

February 6, 1985

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 85-22

TO: ALL-COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FSD LETTER NO. 85-3 (Information)

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURE OF FOOD STAMP CASEFILE INFORMATION

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of recent federal law and regulation changes which necessitate a clarification regarding the disclosure of food stamp casefile information to State IV-D agencies, law enforcement officials investigating an alleged violation of the Food Stamp Act or regulations, and employees of the Comptroller General's office.

Statutes contained in the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-369) authorize the release of food stamp casefile information to State IV-D agencies (Child Support Enforcement Program). In addition, final federal regulations dated December 14, 1984, make specific that access to food stamp casefile information is to be provided to local, State and Federal law enforcement officials investigating an alleged violation of the Food Stamp Act or regulations, and to employees of the Comptroller General's Office of the United States for audit examination authorized by any other provision of law. These federal changes are consistent with the Department's interpretation of current regulations; however, specific clarifications will be incorporated into State regulations as soon as possible.

It is suggested that requests for release of information to law enforcement officials other than Special Investigative Units (SIU), be made in writing to ensure that the information is not released to officials for any reason other than for the administration of the Food Stamp Program and enforcement of its rules. The written request should be sufficiently detailed to clearly identify the requestor as having the authority to investigate the violation, the nature of the violation and its connection with food stamp enforcement, and the identity of the individual on whom information is being requested.

As mentioned earlier, these clarifications to the State food stamp regulations are currently being drafted. In the interim, any requests for

food stamp casefile information necessary to assist the Child Support Enforcement Program, from law enforcement officials investigating an alleged violation of the Food Stamp Act or regulations, and from employees of the Comptroller General's Office performing audits authorized by law, must be honored.

If you have any questions, please contact the Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 445-6907.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Horel
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA