

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, M.S. 19-31  
Sacramento, CA 95814



February 11, 1987

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 87-29

TO: All County Welfare Directors  
All Public and Private Adoption Agencies  
All SDSS Adoptions District Offices

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION UNDER CIVIL CODE SECTION 224t

The Adoptions Branch has received many inquiries from adoption agencies regarding clarification of the agency's responsibilities when transmitting medical information to adoptive parents and adoptees.

Civil Code Section 224s(a) requires an adoption agency to provide the prospective adoptive parents with a written report on the medical background of the child to be adopted prior to the placement of the child for adoption. To the extent that the information is available, the report is required to include the medical background of the child's birth parents. The report is to contain all known diagnostic information, including medical reports, psychological evaluations, scholastic information and information pertaining to the child's developmental and family life. This section also requires the provision of medical information to the petitioners in an independent adoption as part of the agency's report to the court.

Civil Code Section 224t requires the agency, upon request, to provide adoptees who are 18 years of age or older, married adoptees under the age of 18 years, and the adoptive parents of adoptees under the age of 18, a copy of the medical report required by Civil Code Section 224s(a).

Under Civil Code Section 224t the agency is obligated to release any and all information contained in the adoption case record which meets the authorization of Civil Code Section 224s(a). The agency is not required to seek medical information other than that already contained in the adoption case record. However, the agency is not prohibited from obtaining medical information beyond that which is currently a part of the case record, as long as the required authorizations for the release of information are obtained from any persons who provide medical information and the information is shared in a manner which assures confidentiality. The decision to seek additional medical information is at the agency's discretion.

In the process of securing additional medical information, agencies should be aware of the prohibition, in Civil Code 230.6, from soliciting waivers for contact between the adoptee, adoptive parents and birth parents.

Questions regarding this letter should be addressed to the Adoptions Field Support Bureau at (916) 322-5973 and ATSS 492-5973.



LOREN D. SUTER  
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cc: CWDA