

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



December 13, 1999

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-104

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL PUBLIC ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL CDSS ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICES

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND ASSEMBLY BILL 1225

The purpose of this all-county letter is to notify you of changes in the administration of the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) that were enacted by Assembly Bill (AB) 1225, Chapter 905, Statutes of 1999. AB 1225 was an urgency measure that became effective on October 10, 1999.

AB 1225 amended Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16119(a) to require agencies to provide prospective adoptive parents additional information, in writing, about the availability of AAP benefits. Consequently, this written information must be provided not only at the time application of a child who is potentially eligible for AAP benefits is made, but also immediately before the finalization of the adoption decree.

AB 1225 also added subdivision (b) to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16119. Subdivision (b) requires agencies to encourage families who do not elect to sign an AAP agreement on behalf of their child who is eligible for such benefits to sign a deferred adoption assistance agreement.

To implement the provisions of AB 1225, the California Department of Social Services will be developing proposed regulations. In the interim, agencies should take steps to comply with the new requirements.

Any questions regarding this ACL should be addressed to Maria Barriga, Adoptions Policy Consultant, at (916) 323-0469 or by email at maria.barriga@dss.ca.gov.

**Original Signed by Wesley A. Beers
On 12/13/99**

WESLEY A. BEERS
Acting Deputy Director
Children & Family Services Division

c: CWDA