

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



June 10, 1998

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 97/98-62

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS  
COUNTY AUDITOR CONTROLLERS  
COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT (CWD) ASSISTANCE CLAIM  
INSTRUCTIONS - SUSPENSION OF NEW PLACEMENTS AT THE  
ARIZONA BOYS RANCH (ABR)

REFERENCE: ATTACHMENT DATED MARCH 5, 1998 FROM THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS), DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION,  
MARJORIE KELLY

In the above referenced letter, Marjorie Kelly, Deputy Director of the CDSS Children and Family Services Division, who is the Administrator of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and the Title IV-E single state agency authority, suspended the use of state and federal foster care funding for new placements in the ABR. All placements made prior to March 6, 1998 are not affected by this suspension order. This funding suspension policy will be in effect for new placements until further notice.

Counties may not claim costs on new placements made after March 5, 1998 on the below listed County Assistance Claim forms:

- CA 800 FC (FED), Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures Federal Children in Foster Care
- CA 800 (FED-Voluntary FC), Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures Federal Children in Voluntary Foster Care
- CA 800A FC, Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures-Nonfederal Children in Foster Care
- CA 800 EA, Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures-Emergency Assistance Foster Care

If counties submitted Assistance claims that included payments for new placements into ABR made after March 5, 1998 to present, the current months claim lines should be amended to reflect abatement of these costs. The adjustment claim lines are listed below.

- CA 800 FC (FED), Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures Federal Children in Foster Care - (Line 9), Schedule of Adjustments
- CA 800 (FED-Voluntary FC), Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures Federal Children in Voluntary Foster Care - (Line 9), Schedule of Adjustments
- CA 800A FC, Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures-Nonfederal Children in Foster Care - (Line 9), Schedule of Adjustments
- CA 800 EA, Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures-Emergency Assistance Foster Care - (Line 12), Prior Month Negative Adjustment

Those counties which do not comply will be at risk of future audit exceptions. Placements in ABR made prior to March 5, 1998 will continue to be eligible for state and federal reimbursement and may be claimed on the above referenced assistance claim forms.

Thank you for your assistance with this issue. If you have any questions please contact the Fiscal Policy Bureau at (916) 657-3431.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By  
George E. Peacher on 6/10/98***

GEORGE E. PEACHER, JR., Chief  
Fiscal Systems and Accounting Branch

Attachment

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 5, 1998

TO: All County Welfare Directors  
All County Chief Probation Officers  
All Interstate Compact Coordinators

SUBJECT: Suspension of Approval for State and Federal Foster Care Funding for New Placements at **Arizona Boys Ranch**, and Suspension of Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Requests for New Placements at **Arizona Boys Ranch**.

The California Department of Social Services has been informed of the death of a California child while placed at the Arizona Boys Ranch (ABR). The circumstances of the death are unknown at this time. As the Administrator of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and as the Title IV-E single state agency authority, I am suspending the use of state and federal foster care funding for new placements at Arizona Boys Ranch effective this date, March 5, 1998. I am further suspending any new Interstate Compact requests for placement from California to ABR. These suspensions will remain in effect pending the availability of further information.

We understand that the matter is being investigated by Arizona law enforcement. We are in contact with the Arizona Department of Economic Security concerning their licensing procedures and practices in general and specific to this incident.

Since a number of California children continue in placement at ABR, you are reminded that the primary responsibility of counties to children in placement is to assure their safety. Counties have an obligation to take all appropriate measures to assure the safety of children at ABR at this time.

We will keep you apprised of further developments. If you have any questions please contact me at (916) 657-2614.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Kelly".

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division