

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Current law requires California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) non-minor dependents (NMDs) to comply with the requirements for Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS), child support referral and residency. NMDs must be fingerprinted and photo imaged, referred to the local child support agency for the collection or enforcement of child support and be placed with approved relatives in-state.

Effective January 1, 2013, Assembly Bill (AB) 1712 (Chapter 846, Statutes of 2012):

- 1) exempts NMDs from the SFIS requirements,
- 2) exempts parenting NMDs from referral to the local child support agency for the payment of child support while in foster care and
- 3) allows NMDs to receive extended CalWORKs benefits even if they are placed with an approved relative in another state.

Effective October 4, 2011, AB 212 (Chapter 459, Statutes of 2011) exempts parents of NMDs from referral to the county for child support payments.

These proposed regulations amend the California Department of Social Services Manual of Policies and Procedures to extend CalWORKs benefits to NMDs placed with approved relatives out-of-state and exempt NMDs from the SFIS and child support referral requirements.

The Department anticipates that these proposed regulations will benefit CalWORKs NMDs by expanding their placement options and reducing barriers to eligibility. Also, by not referring parenting NMDs to the local child support agency, AB 1712 will allow NMDs to retain more of their benefits. These, in turn, will ease the transition to adulthood while improving well-being and outcomes for NMDs.

The Department finds that these proposed regulations are compatible and consistent with the intent of the Legislature in adopting AB 1712 and AB 212, as well as with existing state regulations.

These regulations have been adopted on an emergency basis. In order to allow interested persons an opportunity to submit statements or arguments concerning these regulations, a public notice was published by the Office of Administrative Law on November 22, 2013, and considered at public hearing, in accordance with Government Code Section 11346.4, on January 8, 2014. One comment was received and will be addressed in the Final Statement of Reasons.