



CDSS

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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

February 29, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) NO. 1-13-16

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGER

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 433: PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS)

REFERENCE: [AB 433](#); MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTIONS 42-713 & 44-316.331; WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) 11321 & 11450.05

The purpose of this letter is to transmit information regarding the implementation of AB 433 (Chapter 514, Statutes of 2015), which became effective January 1, 2016. A copy of the bill is attached to this letter. This letter is an overview of the requirements outlined in AB 433 applying to grieving CalWORKs recipients who have experienced the death of a child.

BACKGROUND:

On October 6, 2015, the Governor signed into law AB 433. AB 433 requires a deceased child to continue to be included as a member of a family receiving CalWORKs for the month in which his or her death occurred, and the following month. AB 433 also prohibits sanctions from being applied or overpayments being established for a grieving CalWORKs recipient due to failure or refusal to comply with Welfare to Work (WTW) program requirements during the month of which a child in the assistance unit (AU) died, or the following month.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

IMPLEMENTATION:

At present, the County Initiated Mid-Period Change rule described in MPP Section 44-316.331(p) requires a decrease in cash aid at the end of the month that the death occurred. AB 433 changes that rule in order to excuse AUs from the decrease in the month of, and the month following, the death.

The MPP Section 42-713.1 states that counties are required to excuse CalWORKs recipients from participation in a WTW activity for good cause, if the county determines that a condition or other circumstance exists that temporarily prevents or significantly impairs a recipient's ability to be regularly employed or to participate in WTW activities. AB 433 reinforces that good cause must be provided to families suffering from a child's death.

AB 433 enhances current practices by further ensuring that a CalWORKs recipient(s) do not endure financial hardship as a result of sanction while grieving following the loss of a child, regardless of whether an aided recipient met WTW requirements.

Upon receiving notification of the death of a child in the AU, County Welfare Departments should assist a grieving recipient in accessing services for which he or she may be eligible including, but not limited to:

- Information on mental health services and referrals,
- Nutritional supplement programs,
- Housing assistance and other cash aid programs.

The Family Stabilization Program is another service for which the recipient will likely be eligible. For additional details on mental health supportive services and the Family Stabilization Program, please refer to All County Letter 14-12 and All County Information Notice I-16-00.

This policy change should be automated into the consortia systems by the effective date of the new law or a process must be put in place to meet the requirements of the policy change until necessary automation changes are completed.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalWORKs county consultant directly or call the CalWORKs Employment Bureau at (916) 654-2137.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief
CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility Branch