



CDSS

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

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 28, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-55-16

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: ONLINE MANDATED REPORTING PILOT PROGRAM

REFERENCES: SENATE BILL (SB) 478, CHAPTER 490, STATUTES OF 2015; [PENAL CODE \(PC\) SECTION 11166.02](#) AND [WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE \(W&IC\) SECTION 10612.5](#).

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide information on the recent enactment of the Online Mandated Reporting Pilot Program (hereafter referred to as “Online Pilot Program”). This ACIN includes Attachment I (County Interest Notification Form) to solicit county interest in participating in the Online Pilot Program, to be submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) no later than **August 22, 2016**. Attachment II is an infographic outlaying the general provisions of the Online Pilot Program.

BACKGROUND

Effective January 1, 2016, SB 478 created the county optional Online Pilot Program. The Online Pilot Program will allow participating counties to test the concept of an online reporting system with a group of trained mandated reporters in non-urgent situations, with the hope of creating a more efficient process. As provided in [PC § 11166.02 \(a\)\(2\)](#) and [W&IC § 10612.5 \(b\)](#), the CDSS will oversee and administer the pilot program, providing written guidance and directives. The Online Pilot Program is in effect until January 1, 2021, unless another statute extends or deletes that date. The CDSS may conclude the Online Pilot Program on a county-by-county basis prior to January 1, 2021, if the evaluation and monitoring indicate the pilot program is compromising the safety of children.

ONLINE PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Participating counties will develop and design a platform for online mandated reporters. Pursuant to [PC § 11166.02](#), the online mandated reporting platform must include standardized safety assessment qualifying questions and will be designed to exclude the submission of reports where the child is subject to an immediate risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation or is in imminent danger of severe harm or death. These questions will be developed with the intent of

determining when to redirect the reporter to file their report by telephone. The reporting system must also include appropriate security protocols to protect the confidentiality of the reports.

Only the following specified mandated reporters may use the Online Pilot Program: peace officers, probation officers, social workers, school teachers, school counselors, school administrators, physicians, surgeons, physiologists, licensed nurses, clinical social workers, and coroners. These select mandated reporters may use the internet-based reporting in lieu of the initial telephone report and will not need to submit the required written follow-up report (Suspected Child Abuse Report Form [SS 8572](#)).

Pursuant to [W&IC § 10612.5](#), the CDSS, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the participating counties will collaborate to develop outcome measures for the Online Pilot Program. Participating counties shall hire an evaluator to assess these outcome measures. In its oversight authority, the CDSS will monitor outcomes and resulting evaluation to ensure that safety requirements are met. The CDSS may end the program if evaluation determines that the program poses a risk to the safety of children referred. Participating counties will report to the Assembly Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Human Services by January 1, 2020.

DIRECTIONS FOR OPTING IN TO THE ONLINE PILOT PROGRAM

Attachment I is a County Interest Notification form. Counties who choose to participate in the Online Pilot Program must complete and submit Attachment I to the CDSS by **August 22, 2016**, to the address below:

California Department of Social Services
Attention: Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau
744 P Street, MS 8-11-87
Sacramento, CA 95814

Pursuant to [PC § 11166.02](#), up to 10 counties may participate in the pilot program. The CDSS and CWDA will develop a selection process in the event that more than 10 counties are interested in participating in the Online Pilot Program. Upon confirmation of county participation, the CDSS will coordinate an initial planning meeting with pilot program counties and CWDA.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KEVIN GAINES, Chief
Child Protection and Family Support Branch

Attachment

c: CWDA

County Interest Notification Form

Online Mandated Reporting Pilot Program (Senate Bill 478)

By signing below, _____ County is stating its interest in voluntarily participating in the Online Mandated Reporting Pilot Program. This letter serves as a notice of interest to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS); this letter does not guarantee participation in the Online Pilot Program. By signing below, _____ County acknowledges that it has read the All County Information Notice (ACIN) No. I-55-16, pertaining to the Online Mandated Reporting Pilot Program and understands the general requirements of participating.

County Representative's Signature

Date

County Representative's Printed Name

Title

E-mail address of County Representative

(____) _____
Area Code Phone Number

Please submit the completed form to:

Sydney Tanimoto, Analyst
Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street M.S. 8-11-87
Sacramento, CA 95814
Main No.: (916) 651-6160
E-mail: Sydney.Tanimoto@dss.ca.gov

Please submit this letter on or before **Friday, August 22, 2016.**

Online Mandated Reporting

June 2016

Pilot Program

7 Important Facts



1

Effective January 1, 2016, the Online Mandated Reporting Pilot Program allows **up to 10 counties to participate** in the pilot program.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is responsible for **oversight, accountability, and issuing written directives** to help guide counties through the process.

2

3

The counties are responsible for **developing a platform** for online mandated reporting.



The CDSS, County Welfare Directors Association, and the participating counties will collaborate to **create outcome measures**.

4

The counties will **hire an evaluator** to assess these outcome measures and the CDSS will monitor.

5

Only **select mandated reporters** may use the pilot program (e.g. peace officer, probation officer, social worker, or coroner, etc.).

Standardized safety assessment qualifying questions will be included to determine when to redirect the reporter to file their report by telephone in emergency situations.

6

7

Statute **authorizes the CDSS to conclude the pilot program** on a county-by-county basis prior to January 1, 2021, if the evaluation and monitoring indicate that implementation of the program compromises the safety of children.



For questions about the Mandated Online Reporting Pilot Program, please contact **Sydney Tanimoto** (657-2028) or the **Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau**