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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

November 4, 2010

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-90-10

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL CDSS ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES

SUBJECT: PERMANENCY POLICY BUREAU ADOPTION POLICY AND CONCURRENT
PLANNING POLICY UNITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ELECTRONIC MAIL
(E-MAIL) ADDRESS

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 notice is to provide county child welfare and probation departments, public and private adoption agencies, and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Adoption District Offices (DOs) with a new public e-mail address to be utilized when posing questions to the Children and Family Services Division (CFSD) Permanency Policy Bureau (PPB) Adoption Policy and Concurrent Planning Policy Units. The PPB Adoption Policy and Concurrent Planning Policy Units provide technical assistance to both public and private state entities in regard to concurrent planning, foster care placement, family reunification, agency adoptions, inter-country adoptions and other related permanency policy concerns and considerations for foster care youth and youth affected by these programs.

The PPB Adoption Policy and Concurrent Planning Policy Units strive to provide the utmost assistance and service to its constituents in situations related to permanency policy. However, due to the severity of the state budget crisis, the PPB is working with limited staff resources. Therefore, available resources are being prioritized to duties associated with federal and state mandates affecting child welfare permanency policies and practices.

Consequently, all policy questions posed to PPBs Adoption Policy and Concurrent Planning Policy Units should be submitted to the following e-mail address: ConcurrentPlanningPolicyUnit@dss.ca.gov. Due to the fact that policy questions submitted to these two units may be delayed, it is expected that those posing questions utilize and extinguish all resources available to them prior to submitting policy questions to this e-mail address. All references should be included in the e-mail.

Such resources that may be available include but are not limited to legal resources within county child welfare departments such as County Counsel or private legal counsel, management and supervisory staff, and previously published letters and regulations issued by county and state entities. In addition, any questions that are posed that are theoretical in nature and not associated with a specific case in question are highly discouraged and will not be given priority basis.

The following electronic hyperlinks to various resources that may be of use to those researching policy questions include:

California legislative codes including the Family Code and the Welfare and Institutions Code can be accessed through the following website: www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Legislation and regulation information including the Adoptions Users Manual (Title 22, Division 2), the Manual of Policies and Procedures – Community Care Licensing Division (Title 22, Division 6) and All County Letters and All County Information Notices are available on-line at: www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG71.htm.

General information on the California Department of Social Services and its various programs associated with child welfare can be found at the following website address: www.childsworld.ca.gov.

Policy questions in regard to Independent Adoption, the Adoption Assistance Program and any questions from CDSS' Adoptions DOs should be directed to the CDSS Children's Services Operations and Evaluation Branch, Adoptions Services Bureau at (916) 651-8111.

Be assured that your policy questions are important to us. All policy questions submitted to PPBs Adoption Policy and Concurrent Planning Policy Units policy e-mail address will be reviewed within 72 hours. E-mails of primary importance and in need of immediate attention will be given priority to be answered first. All other policy questions will be answered on a need basis and in the order of receipt. Please be advised that we will make every effort to respond within three weeks to policy questions that are not deemed to require immediate attention. However, some complex questions may take even longer to answer depending on the level of research that may be required.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the CDSS Permanency Policy Bureau at (916) 657-1858.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KAREN B. GUNDERSON, Chief
Child and Youth Permanency Branch
Children and Family Services Division