



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

July 29, 2011

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-43-11

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: MONTHLY CASEWORKER VISITS WITH CHILDREN - REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2011

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 16501.1 (k); SENATE BILL (SB) 703 (CHAPTER 583, STATUTES OF 2007); ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-34-07; ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 09-11, ACL 10-19, ACL 11-18; COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) 08/09-37, CFL 09/10-11, CFL 09/10-23, CFL 09/10-23E; CFL 09/10-49; CFL 10/11-04, CFL 10/11-46

The purpose of this ACIN is to notify counties of the regulations adopted by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) regarding monthly caseworker visits with children. These regulations are being implemented in order to become compliant with the Child and Family Services Act (the Act) of 2006 (Public Law (P.L.) 109-288) and implemented via SB 703.

The PL 109-288 mandated that all foster children under the jurisdiction of the court be visited by their caseworker each and every month; that a majority of those visits must occur in the child's residence; and the visits must be focused on issues pertinent to case planning and service delivery in order to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children.

The ACL 09-11 provided a summary of federal requirements and instructions to counties on improving the frequency, location, and quality of case worker visits and ACL 10-19 provided information on new forms and documentation instructions for

monthly caseworker visits with children. In addition, CDSS provided a plan to the Administration of Children and Families in June 2008 which outlined the state's performance benchmarks to meet the new federal mandate and ensure that a minimum of 90 percent of foster children are visited by their caseworkers on a monthly basis by October 1, 2011, and that the majority of these visits take place in the residence of the child.

In order to assist counties in meeting the caseworker visit requirements, additional funding for increased visits and data entry instructions were provided to counties through two premises; 1) Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) beginning in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008/09 and 2) Increase Funding for Caseworker Visits beginning in SFY 2009/10. A listing of the CFLs for both premises is referenced above.

Failure to comply with these adopted regulations will risk California's entire Title IV-B allocation. The new federal mandate included fiscal penalties for not meeting the 90 percent monthly visit benchmark, which ranged from a one to five percent decrease of Title IV-B, subpart 1 funds. California failed to meet the monthly visit mandate benchmark for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 and received a penalty. This penalty results in a one percent increase in the required state match for Title IV-B, subpart 1. Unless California significantly improves performance on this measure, additional penalties will be imposed next year.

It is the expectation of CDSS that counties will successfully implement these regulations, as compliance with the recently published regulations will ensure congruent policy direction and administrative guidance in meeting the visitation requirement as specified in the Act. The regulation can be located on-line on the CDSS website: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG309.htm>.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the 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