

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

February 17, 2000

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE 1-10-00

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL PUBLIC ADOPTION AGENCIES
 ALL CDSS ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 1270 AND THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON ADOPTION
 AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to inform you of changes made to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) by the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 1270, Chapter 887, Statutes of 1999. These changes concern California's membership in the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) and California's ability to provide Medi-Cal coverage to any special needs child who is the subject of a state-only adoption assistance agreement with California or with another state. These new statutes became effective January 1, 2000.

SB 1270 added WIC Section 16121.2 and WIC Sections 16170-16175 authorizing California to join ICAMA. The ICAMA provides a vehicle for member states to coordinate the administration of medical services and benefits for children who receive Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) benefits. Joinder in the ICAMA ensures that geographic boundaries do not become barriers to adoptive parents trying to meet the needs of their children. The ICAMA provides substantive guarantees and workable procedures for the reciprocity of Medicaid services between member states for any child with an AAP agreement, regardless of federal eligibility.

SB 1270 also added WIC Section 16176, authorizing California to provide Medi-Cal benefits to any child who is the subject of a state-only adoption subsidy agreement with another state regardless of the other state's ICAMA membership status. Eligibility for Medi-Cal benefits is based only on the child's eligibility for adoption assistance benefits. This section also authorizes California to continue Medi-Cal benefits to any child with California state-only AAP agreement if that child is placed out-of-state, or moves out of state, and the receiving state does not provide Medicaid benefits to the child.

As Compact Administrator and Compact Co-Administrator respectively, the California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Health Services will develop proposed regulations to assist public adoption agencies with implementing the provision of SB 1270, including procedures to follow in order to comply with the ICAMA.

Any questions regarding this notice should be addressed to the Adoptions Policy Bureau at (916) 651-8089.

WESLEY A. BEERS, Acting Deputy Director
 Children and Family Services

c: CWDA