STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
44 P Street, MS 19-31
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-3778

June 30, 1982

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-77-82

TO: ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES

SUBJECT: RECRUITMENT - SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

The Department of Social Services has negotiated an agreement with KRON-TV - Channel 4 in San Francisco to recruit homes for special needs children who are available for adoption. The agreement will be in addition to the successful program with KXTV - Channel 10 in Sacramento.

This will provide a great opportunity for all adoption agencies to recruit the best possible homes from the many viewers throughout Central and Northern California. It is the intent of the Department to utilize both television stations in recruiting homes. The Department will be coordinating closely with Channel 10 and Channel 4 and the adoption agencies who have referred a child, so that the children have an opportunity to be viewed by both television audiences.

We are urging local adoption agencies to refer hard-to-place children under their care to the Department to be screened as participants in this program. Agencies wishing to take advantage of this service would be responsible for transporting the child to the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento. Our Department will coordinate the time, day and location of filming with both KXTV, KRON and your staff.

To assist you in the referral process, we have included a list of criteria to use to select the children and a referral questionnaire to complete which will provide the screening committee with identifying and background information on the children. The screening committee will be composed of State and local agency personnel.

The Department, under certain conditions, will consider featuring children who are not freed. Adoption agencies will be able to offer parents who want their children to be adopted the option of utilizing both KRON and KXTV as a technique to recruit adoptive homes for their specific child(ren). This will increase the placement of special needs children who need an adoptive home but whose natural parents will not relinquish until the agency can insure that

an adoptive home has been found. If your agency would like further information concerning this option, please contact Al Colon at (916) 322-3778.

To refer a child for the television program, please return completed questionnaires to Al Colon, Chief, Relinquishment Adoptions Bureau, 744 P Street, MS 19-31, Sacramento, California 95814. Your cooperation in regard to the referral of children and quick follow-up with prospective applicants will make this program a success.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact your adoptions program consultant.

Claude Finn

CLAUDE E. FINN
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

Attachment

cc: CWDA

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION FOR REFERRAL FOR TELEVISION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILD MUST:

1. Be freed from all parents and ready for placement for adoption or have parental and court approval to be featured on television.

2. Not be the object of any type of action, (legal or otherwise), by a parent who is trying to regain custody of the child.

3. Be a hard-to-place/special needs child.

4. Be willing to consent to participate in the program, if at an age at which such consent would be appropriate. If a dependent of the court, the court should be willing to consent to the child's participation in the program.

5. Be able to accept the possibility that a home might not be found as a result of the television presentation.

6. Not be in a fos-adopt home.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE CRITERIA, THE CHILD SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE:

1. Exemplify or be typical of a larger group of children under the agency's care.

2. Be a child who probably would not be placed for adoption without media exposure.

3. Be in a situation in which foster parents and the social worker are supportive of his participation in the program.

AGENCY

CONTACT PERSON

PHONE

REFERRAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name:

2. Legal Status:

3. Date of Birth:

4. Grade in School:

5. Race/ethnicity:

6. Sex:

7. Is the child part of a sibling group?

If so, what is the placement status of the other siblings?

Should they be placed together?

8. Length of time in foster care, include number of foster homes, time in present home, adjustment to foster care.

9. Is the child a court dependent? If yes, will court approval be obtained?

10. Briefly summarize previous placements, if any.

11. Describe the child's current problems (emotional, physical, mental, behavioral, etc.)

12. Description of child's personality and temperament (include strengths and weaknesses).

What are the child's dreams or aspirations?

In what activities is child successful?

13. What are the child's strengths in terms of his/her ability to cope with not finding a home after the media exposure?

14. Describe the type of home/family this child needs.

15. Why was this child selected for referral?

16. Are the natural parents or other significant relatives in this area? Please specify the relation between the relatives and the child.

17. Please suggest activities or areas in which the child could be filmed (zoo, roller rink, etc.).