

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 21, 1987

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-72-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

SUBJECT: APPROPRIATE PLACEMENTS FOR WIC SECTION 300 (c)
DEPENDENT CHILDREN

This letter is to remind counties that under current law a child adjudged a dependent of the court under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 300 (c) may not be placed in a foster family home, small family home, group home or other community care facility. WIC Section 300 (c) describes a person "who is physically dangerous to the public because of a mental or physical deficiency, disorder, or abnormality."

Pursuant to WIC Section 206, minors alleged or adjudged to come within subdivision (c) of WIC Section 300 must be placed in secure facilities. The term "secure facility" for purposes of this section means "a facility which is designed and operated so as to insure that all entrances to, and exits from, the facility are under the exclusive control of the staff of the facility, whether or not the person detained has freedom of movement within the perimeters of the facility, or which relies on locked rooms and buildings, fences, or physical restraints in order to control behavior of its residents." The statutory requirement for placement of children described in WIC Section 300 (c) in secure facilities precludes placement of such children in community care facilities as defined in the Health and Safety Code.

For cases in which the court finds that a person described by WIC Section 300 may need specialized out-of-home mental health treatment, the court is required pursuant to WIC Section 319.1 to notify the director of the county mental health department (CMHD) in the county where the child resides. The CMHD must then assess the child's mental health treatment needs and ensure access for the child to appropriate treatment services.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact your Adult and Family Services Operations Consultant at (916) 445-0623.



LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA