

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



February 9, 1998

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-09-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTSREASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS  
(CalWORKs) PROGRAM - PENALTY PROVISIONS

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to provide counties with a summary of penalties in the CalWORKs program. The attached list of penalties is informational only. All penalties are referenced in several All County Letters implementing the CalWORKs provisions which were sent to counties prior to November 1, 1997. Instructions specific to these penalties are not affected by this letter. All CalWORKs penalties became effective on January 1, 1998.

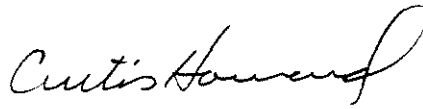
The following general policies regarding penalties should be noted:

- A **sanction** results when an individual is taken out of the assistance unit for failure to comply with program requirements, e.g., the individual fails to meet work requirements or refuses to assign support rights.
- A **penalty** results when, because of noncompliance, the grant is reduced or the individual's needs are not considered in computing the grant, e.g. when a parent fails to provide documentation that their children are immunized or attending school regularly.
- Unless state law specifically requires it, vouchers are required only in cases where the individual is no longer in the assistance unit **and** the sanction is for a specified period of time that lasts three months or longer.

- Work requirements apply when the individual remains in the assistance unit.
- Existing food stamp rules whereby the food stamp benefits are not increased as a result of a CalWORKs reduction because of penalty or sanction still apply.
- Although Medi-Cal and food stamp eligibility may need to be reassessed, it should be noted that in some situations a recipient could still be eligible for those programs.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Ms. Marilyn Delgado at (916) 653-5830.

Sincerely,



CURTIS HOWARD  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment