
The Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

This ACL provides information regarding implementation of the federal ASFA regulations and the new Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review Checklist.

There are several new federal ASFA requirements related to court order and voluntary placement agreements, which must be verified by the eligibility worker in order for AFDC-FC eligibility to exist. Court order requirements that must be verified by appropriate county staff include:

- "Continuance in the home is contrary to the welfare of the minor" or a finding to that effect. For federal AFDC-FC eligibility, this finding must be made in the first court order that removes the child from his/her home. For state AFDC-FC eligibility, a court must make the same "contrary to the welfare" finding as is the case for federal AFDC-FC, but the order need not be in the first order removing the child from his/her home.
- Placement and care is vested either with the county welfare department or a finding to that effect. Neither state nor federal AFDC-FC eligibility may be established prior to a court making this finding.
- "Reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal" have been made by the county or were not required. For federal FC eligibility, this finding must be made within 60 days from the date the child is removed from the home. For state AFDC-FC, this finding must be made before state FC will be approved, but need not be made within 60 days from the date of removal.

*California Department of Social Services - State Hearings Division
Notes from the Training Bureau - July 20, 2001*

Item 01-07-01E

CDSS ACL 01-32 -- June 4, 2001 (Synopsis): Limited-English Proficient (LEP) Individuals and the CalWORKs Welfare -to-Work (WTW) Program

Limited-English Proficient (LEP) Individuals and the CalWORKs Welfare -to-Work (WTW) Program

This ACL provides guidance and policies to counties to ensure that LEP participants receive the same level of services as other WTW participants during assessment and are assigned to WTW activities that meet their needs. This ACL refers to legal requirements set out in MPP §§21-109 and 21-115. It states: "...in accordance with MPP §21-115, assessments of LEP participants must be conducted in a language that the individual understands through appropriate and effective bilingual/interpretive services or translations and in a culturally sensitive manner necessary to communicate fully and effectively with the participants."

Other statements in this ACL include:

"County Welfare Departments must ensure that their contractors provide meaningful access to WTW activities and services. Provisions of MPP §21-115 apply regardless of the counties' use of contractors."

"Forms and other written material that the county uses for the provision of WTW services must be available at all local offices and offered to an applicant/recipient in the individual's primary language, when translated versions of these materials are provided by CDSS."

*California Department of Social Services - State Hearings Division
Notes from the Training Bureau - July 20, 2001*

Item 01-07-01D

CDSS ACL 01-24 -- April 2, 2001 (Synopsis): Implementation of Food Stamp Regulation Changes

Implementation of Food Stamp Regulation Changes

On November 21, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued final rules amending certain food stamp regulations. The primary changes were to regulations concerning vehicles and noncitizens. A summary of those changes is as follows:

- Any licensed or unlicensed vehicle is an inaccessible resource if its equity value is \$1500 or less. Once the vehicle is evaluated, it does not need to be reevaluated until the next recertification. One licensed vehicle per adult household member is excluded from the equity value test. Also, one licensed vehicle is excluded from the equity value test for any household member under age 18 if the vehicle is used to drive to work, school, job training, or to look for work. (see also ACL 01-29 regarding implementation of federal vehicle rules).
- Sponsorship support requirements are extended from three years to lifetime for food stamp purposes. The sponsor's support requirement ends if the noncitizen has 40 qualifying quarters, or becomes a U.S. citizen. The income and resources of the sponsor's spouse are no longer attributed to the sponsored noncitizen unless the spouse has signed the sponsorship agreement.
- Households with self-employment earnings may now choose between claiming actual costs of producing self-employment income or taking a 40% deduction from gross earned income.
- The face-to-face interview is waived for households containing all disabled or elderly members with no earned income.