July 10, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 17-68

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
    ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
    ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
    ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
    ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
    ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

SUBJECT: FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY PLACEMENTS WITH RELATIVES AND NONRELATIVE EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS (NREFMs)

REFERENCE: ACL NO. 04-28; ACL NO. 16-79 and ACL NO. 17-11

The purpose of this ACL is to provide instructions to counties regarding Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) rates paid for children/youth placed with a relative or a NREFM in the home of a certified Foster Family Agency (FFA). This ACL supersedes instructions in ACL NO. 04-28, dated July 16, 2004.

Background

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued ACL NO. 04-28 (refer to page two of that letter), which specified if the county placed a child in the approved home of a relative or NREFM that is also a FFA certified home and the child’s needs can be met by that relative or NREFM, then the county could only pay the basic rate and the specialized care, if appropriate. At that time, the county was not able to pay the FFA rate for these placements.
FFA Placements with Relatives and NREMFs

The Continuum of Care Reform effort necessitated changes to the age-based foster care rate structures. These changes also impacted FFA rates and are outlined in ACL NOs. 16-79 and 17-11. Effective the beginning of the following month of this ACL, when an eligible AFDC-FC child is placed in a certified or Resource Family Approved FFA home, with a relative or NREFM, the county is to pay the FFA rate.

If you have any questions about this ACL, please contact your Foster Care Eligibility Consultant at (916) 651-9152.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: County Welfare Directors Association