



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

July 27, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 17-82

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: RAMIREZ V. LIGHTBOURNE; SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 34-2015-80002216

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide instructions to county welfare departments as required in the case of *Ramirez v. Lightbourne*. The court order issued in this case applies to children residing in California with a Non-Related Legal Guardian (NRLG) whose guardianship determination was issued by a court of another state and subsequently registered in California pursuant to [Family Code sections 3445 and 3446](#). As of the date of registration, such a guardianship is enforceable in the same manner as a guardianship issued by a California court under the Probate Code or Welfare and Institutions Code.

Therefore, NRLGs with guardianship orders registered in a California court are eligible for Aid To Families With Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) benefits on behalf of the child as of the date of registration or the date of application, whichever is later and assuming all other eligibility conditions are met. The Department of Social Services is in the process of updating related regulations to this effect.

Counties shall inform applicants for AFDC-FC who have a guardianship determination issued by a court of another state that they may be eligible for AFDC-FC either by obtaining a guardianship order from a California court or by registering their guardianship order issued by a court of another state in a California court.

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

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

VALERIE EARLEY FOR
GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division