

July 28, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-81

This All County Letter (ACL) is to inform child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, foster care and adoption providers, and Tribes of the termination of certain Emergency Orders and temporary policy flexibilities implemented to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 28, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-81

TO:

- ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
- ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
- ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
- ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
- ALL COUNTY RFA AND ADOPTION PROGRAM MANAGERS
- ALL COUNTY WELFARE FISCAL OFFICERS
- ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
- ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
- ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS
- ALL LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCIES
- ALL LICENSED FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
- ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
- ALL ADOPTION FACILITATORS
- ALL CDSS ADOPTION REGIONAL OFFICES
- ALL DELEGATED COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
- ALL ADOPTION SERVICES PROVIDERS
- ALL LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCIES
- CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ADOPTION AGENCIES

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY POLICY FLEXIBILITIES
RELATED TO COVID-19 IMPACTS

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACL) [20-56](#), [20-92](#), [20-123](#), [20-124](#), [21-26](#), [21-07](#), [20-43](#), [20-71](#), [20-86](#), [20-91](#), [21-51](#), [20-117E](#), and [20-117](#); FAMILY CODE SECTIONS [8702](#), [8801.3](#), [8808](#) and [9203-9205](#); [Senate Bill 129 \(Budget Act of 2021\)](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide county child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, foster care and adoption agencies and providers, and Tribes with guidance regarding the termination of certain Emergency Orders enacted by Governor Newsom as a result of the declared California State of Emergency due to the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). At the expiration of

the statewide Color Tier System and Executive Orders (EO), many of the temporary policy flexibilities that were implemented have been or will be rescinded and all prior statutory, regulatory, and written guidance requirements are reinstated thereafter. This letter is intended to address the EOs that are effective through September 30, 2021, and thereafter expire.

Adoptions Program

The flexibilities and waivers in [ACL 20-56](#) (May 18, 2020) and subsequently in [20-92](#), [20-123](#), [20-124](#) and [21-26](#) allowed for remote completion, signature and witnessing of adoptions forms that need to be signed and witnessed under Family Code sections [8702](#), [8801.3](#), [8808](#) and [9203-9205](#). The waiver is effective through September 30, 2021, and thereafter all existing statutory, regulatory and written guidance is reinstated without exception for the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program

The flexibilities and waivers in [ACL 21-07](#) (January 14, 2021) and subsequently in ACLs [20-43](#), [20-71](#), [20-86](#), and [20-91](#) provided guidance for

- Home and grounds/bedroom sharing
- Capacity Waivers
- Ending inactive status
- Training requirements
- Self-attestation allowance for RFA required documents
- Portability flexibilities
- Tier-based flexibilities for visits and family evaluation or complaint investigation interviews

The provision of these waivers and flexibilities established through the EO are effective through September 30, 2021, and thereafter all existing statutory, regulatory and written guidance is reinstated without exception for the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Extended Foster Care (EFC)

Although the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that allows EFC to continue after age 21, expires as of September 30, 2021, the recent budget bill signed [Senate Bill 129 \(Budget Act of 2021\)](#) includes provisions extending these flexibilities under state law through December 31, 2021. Additional guidance via ACL will be forthcoming.

All County Letter No. 21-81
Page Three

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Children and Family Services Division at CFSD@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ, Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division