

January 9, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-01

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform county child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments and behavioral/mental health agencies of Senate Bill (SB) 1090 expanding the definition of “current or former foster child or youth” for the provision of the Family Urgent Response System for Caregivers and Children or Youth (FURS) as described in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 16526.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

January 9, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: **EXPANSION AND CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION FOR
ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM
FOR CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN OR YOUTH**

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL 1090, \(CHAPTER 833, STATUTES OF 2022\);](#)
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 16526;](#)
[ASSEMBLY BILL 79, \(CHAPTER 11, STATUTES OF 2020\);](#)
[SENATE BILL 80 \(CHAPTER 5.4, STATUTES OF 2019\);](#)
[ASSEMBLY BILL 403 \(CHAPTER 773, STATUTES OF 2015\)](#)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform county child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, and behavioral/mental health agencies about expansions to the definition for eligibility to receive services from the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) for Caregivers and Children or Youth as described in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 16526 and originally enacted through Section 107 of Senate Bill (SB) 80 (Statute of 2019) and amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 79 (Statutes of 2020).

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 79 (Statutes of 2020) required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a statewide hotline as the entry point for a FURS to

respond to calls from caregivers or current or former foster children or youth during moments of instability. This legislation required the hotline to include, among other things, referrals to a county-based mobile response system which all counties are required to establish for further support and in-person response. Under AB 79 the definition of the term “current or former foster child or youth” for the purposes of these provisions includes “a child or youth adjudicated under Section 300, 601, or 602 and who is served by a county child welfare agency or probation department, and a child or youth who has exited foster care to reunification, guardianship, or adoption. A current or former foster child or youth shall be eligible for services under this chapter until they attain 21 years of age.” There is no time restriction on when an exit must have occurred for a former foster youth. For example, a 17-year-old former foster youth adopted, reunified, or appointed a legal guardian at two years old can still access FURS up until they turn 21 years old.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

The passage of SB 1090 clarifies and expands the definition of “current or former foster child or youth” for the purposes of determining eligibility to receive services through the FURS program as found in WIC Section 16526. Through SB 1090 and effective January 1, 2023, the definition of “current or former foster child or youth” now includes not only the previously identified populations, but also the following: a child or youth who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement as defined in subdivision (p) of Section 11400, a child or youth who is placed in foster care and is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 300, and a child or youth placed in California pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. Furthermore, SB 1090 establishes that a child or youth who has exited foster care for any reason, including, but not limited to, reunification, guardianship, adoption, emancipation, or, for example, having begun in state jurisdiction and later transferring to tribal jurisdiction, remains eligible to receive services through the FURS program until they attain 21 years of age.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Permanency Services and Support Unit at (916) 657-1858 or at FURS@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division