

May 16, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-42

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide guidance to county child welfare services agencies and probation departments on the passage of [Senate Bill 1054 \(Chapter 506, Statutes of 2022\)](#), effective January 1, 2023. This bill provides that employees of a county's child welfare services agency or a county's adult protective services agency may disclose information with each other for the purpose of multidisciplinary teamwork in the prevention, intervention, management, or treatment of child abuse or neglect or abuse or neglect of an elder or dependent adult.



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

May 16, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-42

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE STAFF
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 1054: CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL 1054 \(CHAPTER 506, STATUTES OF 2022\);](#)
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 10850,](#)
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 15633,](#)
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 18951,](#) AND
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 18961.7](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide guidance to county child welfare services (CWS) agencies and probation departments on the passage of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1054 \(Chapter 506, Statutes of 2022\)](#), effective January 1, 2023. This bill provides that employees of a county's child welfare services agency and a county's Adult Protective Services (APS) agency may disclose information with each other for the purpose of multidisciplinary teamwork in the prevention, intervention, management, or treatment of child abuse or neglect or abuse or neglect of an elder or dependent adult.

BACKGROUND

Prior to [SB 1054](#), APS and CWS were authorized to cross-report information to other public service agencies regarding the prevention or intervention of abuse or neglect. Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), developed at the county level, also offer an opportunity for an open line of communication and confidential information sharing across agencies and an opportunity for collaboration among experts to provide services to families experiencing abuse or neglect. However, there was nothing in statute that specifically allowed the sharing of information between APS and CWS agencies' MDTs to intervene

or mitigate elder or child abuse. Child welfare MDTs also did not explicitly allow county APS personnel to participate in the CWS agency's MDT.

The intent of [SB 1054](#) is to close any communication gaps that may exist between the two separate agencies which may not have a constant, ongoing partnership. Having a process to share information between CWS and APS agencies offers a more efficient response for both children and adults in need. The passage of [SB 1054](#) ensures that both agencies can share information so that necessary services are offered in a timely manner to better serve children and adults in California.

SENATE BILL 1054

[Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) Section 10850](#) was amended under [SB 1054](#), to specify that the confidentiality requirements under that section would not prohibit employees of a county's APS agency or a county's CWS agency from disclosing information with each other for the purpose of multidisciplinary teamwork in the prevention, intervention, management, or treatment of abuse or neglect of a child and/or an elder or dependent adult. The purpose of this clarification is to allow for a streamlined process for both protective service agencies to be included in MDTs to allow for information sharing between the two agencies in circumstances that require intervention and prevention of abuse for both children and elder and dependent adults. This bill also amended [WIC Section 15633](#) to allow an employee of a county's APS agency or a county's CWS agency to disclose information with each other for the purpose of multidisciplinary teamwork in the prevention, intervention, management, or treatment of the abuse or neglect of a child or of an elder or dependent adult.

Under [SB 1054](#), "Adult Protective Services Personnel" were added to the list of team members authorized to be included in MDTs in [WIC sections 18951](#) and [18961.7](#). The inclusion of APS personnel ensures that all involved are better informed of the safety and risk factors families may be experiencing and helps in the coordination of services and supports to help families stabilize and become more resilient. In addition, [SB 1054](#) added a provision in [WIC section 18961.7](#) that expands the definition of a provider agency to include a county's APS agency, who may share information under that section when engaged in multidisciplinary teamwork for the prevention, identification, management, or treatment of the abuse or neglect of a child. Additionally, for situations in which an Indian child or nonminor dependent is involved in a cross-agency team meeting between APS and CWS, the Indian child's tribal representative should be allowed to receive and share information with all necessary parties in both CWS and APS agencies regarding that child or nonminor dependent.

More information about MDTs can be found in the [Multidisciplinary Teams Information Sheet](#) on the California Courts website.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please contact the Family Centered Safety and Support Bureau at (916) 651-6160 or by sending an email to childprotection@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

cc: All Federally Recognized Tribes