

June 26, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-54

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide guidance to Adult Protective Services agencies 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.



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DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

June 26, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-54

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES MANAGERS

SUBJECT: **GUIDANCE REGARDING SENATE BILL 1054:
CONFIDENTIALITY FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS**

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

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide guidance to Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies 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 Agency (CWS) and a county's 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 agencies were authorized to cross-report information to other public service agencies given responsibility for investigation of cases of elder and dependent adult abuse regarding any known or suspected instance of abuse or neglect of an elder or dependent adult. Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), which are developed at the county level, have historically provided 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 individuals or families experiencing abuse or neglect. However, until the passage of [SB 1054](#), there was nothing in statute that specifically allowed the sharing of information between APS and CWS agencies' MDTs for the purpose of intervening or preventing elder or dependent adult abuse or child abuse.

The intent of [SB 1054](#) is to close any communication gaps that may exist between CWS and APS agencies. The passage of [SB 1054](#) ensures that both agencies can share

information with each other so that coordinated and necessary services are offered in a timely manner to better serve children and elders and dependent adults in California.

SENATE BILL 1054

[Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) § 10850](#) and [WIC § 15633](#) were amended under [SB 1054](#), to specify that the confidentiality requirements under those respective sections do 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 or an elder or dependent adult. This allows for a streamlined process for both protective service agencies' participation in MDTs, and to allow for information sharing between the two agencies in circumstances that require intervention and prevention of abuse for children and elder and dependent adults. The [WIC 10850](#) was also amended to clarify that, except as otherwise stated, all applications and records concerning any individual made or kept by a public officer or agency relating to any form of public social services, including protective services provided through public social services agencies, shall be confidential.

Additionally, [SB 1054](#) added "Adult Protective Services Personnel" to the list of team members that may be included in a CWS agency's child abuse MDT as defined in [WIC § 18951](#) and [WIC § 18961.7](#). As such, APS personnel may now participate in a child abuse MDT. The inclusion of APS personnel ensures that all agencies 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. The [SB 1054](#) also added a provision in [WIC § 18961.7\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) that expands the definition of a "provider agency" for the purposes of child abuse MDTs 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.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please call California Department of Social Services APS at (916) 6531865, or by sending an email to aps@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

LEORA FILOSENA, P.M.P
Deputy Director
Adult Programs Division