



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

JULY 1, 2014

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA MANAGERS

FROM: TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 1468, CHAPTER 26, STATUTES OF 2014;
TREATMENT OF DRUG FELONS IN THE CALFRESH AND CALIFORNIA
WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS)
PROGRAMS

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to transmit information to county welfare departments (CWDs) regarding changes to the treatment of people with a prior drug felony conviction in the CalWORKs and CalFresh programs (Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 11251.3 and 18901.3, respectively). Assembly Bill 1468, Chapter 26, Statutes of 2014, makes individuals convicted of any offense classified as a felony that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance, eligible to receive CalWORKs and/or CalFresh benefits, if otherwise eligible, effective April 1, 2015.

As of April 1, 2015, as a condition of eligibility to receive CalWORKs or CalFresh benefits, an applicant or recipient who is on probation or parole shall comply with the terms of the probation or parole, including participation in a government-recognized drug treatment program, if required. If the CWD receives verification that the individual is in violation of probation or parole or that the individual is a fleeing felon pursuant to federal law, the individual shall be ineligible for CalWORKs or CalFresh benefits until the person is no longer in violation of probation or parole or a fleeing felon. Verification shall be obtained using existing CWD protocols to determine eligibility.

Subsequent to this ACWDL, the California Department of Social Services will release All County Letters (ACLs) with implementation instructions, and to release revisions to the CF 285 and SAWS 2 Plus applications and any other forms referencing the current drug felon policy which sunsets March 31, 2015. Online and paper applications must be changed to remove the questions related to drug felons no later than April 1, 2015.

At this time, no action is required. CWDs shall continue to process applications as previously instructed until further ACL guidance is issued. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county consultant or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896. For CalWORKs questions, please call the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322.