

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

October 22, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-74-01**TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS****SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF LAMBDA REPORT ON FOSTER YOUTH**

The purpose of this All-County Information Notice is to bring your attention to the recent report published by Lambda called "Youth in the Margins: A Report on the Unmet Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Adolescents in Foster Care, Including a Survey of Fourteen States and Proposal for Reform." The report includes a description of the unique problems faced by this foster care population and information gathered from a survey in 14 states, including California.

The report makes recommendations regarding the need for changes to policy and practice with respect to the treatment of these children through such actions as law and regulation changes, training of foster parents and foster families, provision of health services, education of youth on the subject of gender identity and health care (especially about sexually-transmitted diseases). The report also highlighted two group homes—one in Los Angeles and one in New York City—that are designed specifically to house LGBT adolescents.

We recommend that you take this opportunity to look at the report to make yourselves aware of the issues that are important to this population of youth we serve. We discussed this at a recent meeting of the California Youth Connection and will work with the training professionals to ensure that these concerns are addressed in the preparation of staff and foster caretakers who work with foster youth. The report is currently available on the Lambda web site at <http://www.lambdalegal.org>.

If you have any questions, call me at (916) 654-2474, or Sylvia Pizzini, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services Division, at (916) 657-2614.

Sincerely,

Original Document***Signed By***

JEANNE RODRIGUEZ
Deputy Director
Office of Human Rights