

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 18, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-78-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOSTER CARE SUPERVISORS
CALIFORNIA STATE FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA STATE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA PROBATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: COURT ORDERS PERMITTING MINORS IN FOSTER CARE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE COUNTY LIMITS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has become aware of county policies that require court orders before foster youth are permitted to travel outside county limits. The purpose of this notice is to inform counties that CDSS does not interpret the provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code to impose such a travel restriction.

Although judicial approval may be warranted for trips of great length or duration, the same is not necessarily true when the excursion is short or when foster youth live in counties that are closely situated to one another. Foster youth may wish to travel outside county boundaries for school or church related activities. Their ability to do so should not be unduly restricted by county procedures.

The CDSS encourages counties to adopt flexible travel policies that enhance the ability of foster youth to participate in extracurricular and social activities. For example, counties may request standing orders that permit limited travel outside the county for specified activities or authorize social workers to give consent. Counties should also ensure that social workers and foster parents are aware of any such order. Finally, any changes in county procedures that result from this notice should be made in accordance with existing risk management policies.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Spencer, Chief, Foster Care Services Bureau at (916) 445-7001.

Sincerely,

**Original Document
Signed By**

SYLVIA PIZZINI
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division