

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-7247



August 22, 1984

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-80-84

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

REFERENCE: MPP Section 25-330.9

The upcoming election has raised the question of what materials may accompany warrants to AFDC recipients. This is a reminder that state and federal regulations restrict enclosures mailed with warrants to those matters relating directly to the administration of public social services programs.

The prohibition is spelled out in 45 CFR Section 205.50(4):

"All materials sent or distributed to applicants, recipients, or medical vendors, including material enclosed in envelopes containing checks, will be limited to those which are directly related to the administration of the program and will not have political implications. Under this requirement:

(i) Specifically excluded from mailing or distribution are materials such as "holiday" greetings, general public announcements, voting information, alien registration notices;

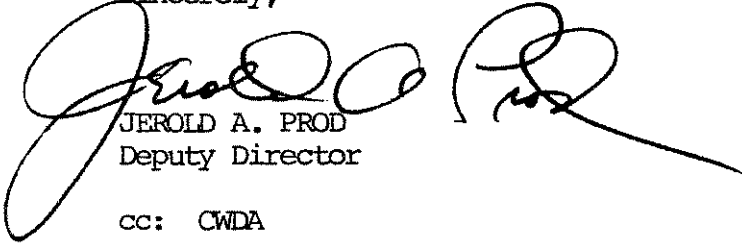
(ii) Not prohibited from such mailing or distribution are materials in the immediate interest of the health and welfare of applicants and recipients, such as announcements of free medical examinations, availability of surplus food, and consumer protection information." (emphasis added)

Note that this regulation prohibits not only the mailing of political materials but also their distribution.

Any activities of government entities in connection with political contests, including ballot initiatives, are closely circumscribed. See Stanson v. Mott, 17 Cal 3d 206.

If you have any questions related to political activity concerning your agency not specifically covered by this notice, you should immediately contact your county counsel and/or this office.

Sincerely,



JEROLD A. PROD  
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA