

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October 6, 1986

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-91-86

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

As a result of recent disclosures in the media of information from Child Welfare Services (CWS) cases, this notice is a reminder to all counties that there are specific limitations on the release of information pertaining to an applicant or recipient of public assistance or services.

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 10850(a) reads as follows:  
"Except as otherwise provided in this section, all applications and records concerning any individual made or kept by any public officer or agency in connection with the administration of any provision of this code relating to any form of public social services for which grants-in-aid are received by this state from the United States Government shall be confidential, and shall not be open to examination for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of any such program..." (emphasis ours).

The State Department of Social Services (SDSS) regulations on confidentiality are found in Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) Division 19-001 et seq. MPP 19-004.11 states: "Confidential information may be released without the consent of the applicant/recipient only for purposes directly connected with the administration of public social services except as specified in MPP 19-004.4. Public social services are defined as aid or services administered or supervised by SDSS or the State Department of Health Services".

All county staff should be aware that both the release and possession of confidential information in violation of the above WIC or MPP sections are misdemeanors. Therefore, in the event of future media inquiries concerning specific CWS cases, counties should be cognizant of the confidentiality provisions contained in WIC Section 10850 et seq. and MPP 19-001 et seq. and if necessary consult with county counsel before responding.

If you have questions please contact your Adult and Family Services Operations Consultant at (916) 445-0623.

  
LOREN D. SUTER  
Deputy Director  
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA