

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



September 30, 1988

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-97-88

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS  
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES  
ALL DSS ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: INFANTS WHO TEST POSITIVE WITH HUMAN IMMUNE  
DEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

REFERENCE: ALL-COUNTY LETTER 88-59 ACQUIRED IMMUNE  
DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

This notice is to provide you with some additional information regarding newborns that test positive with the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) which is the cause of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). In All-County Letter (ACL) 88-59, the State Department of Social Services concurred with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendation that foster placement agencies consider, before placement in foster care homes, adding HIV screening to routine medical evaluations of children at increased risk of being infected with HIV. Research indicates that AIDS-infected mothers often have infants that test positive for HIV because the infant has not developed its own antibodies and still has those of its mother. If an infant is infected with HIV, symptoms usually develop by six months of age. If the infant's physician feels that it is medically appropriate to test for HIV, follow-up testing should be conducted six months after the initial test and at additional intervals to determine if the child is infected. Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Community Care Licensing staff are required to provide foster parents, group home operators or licensees with information including but not limited to the medical history and a history of infectious or contagious diseases of the child to be placed. A positive HIV reaction in an infant six months and younger should not be taken as conclusive proof that the child is infected with HIV and will develop AIDS.

If you have any CWS Program questions, please contact your Adult and Family Services Operations consultant at (916) 445-0623 or ATSS 485-0623. Adoption Agencies, please direct your questions to your Adoption Policy consultant at (916) 322-4228 or ATSS 492-4228.

*Loren D. Suter*  
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Deputy Director  
Adult and Family Services

cc: County Welfare Directors Association