

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



October 24, 1995

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.  
I-49-95

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: RENTAL FEE FOR PROPANE TANK AS PART OF UTILITY COSTS

The purpose of this letter is to transmit a policy clarification received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Consumer Service (FCS) regarding utility costs. This policy clarifies that the rental fee for a propane tank is an allowable utility cost in the Food Stamp Program.

Under Manual Section 63-502.353(a)(1), the cost of heating and cooling is listed as an allowable shelter cost. Because the propane tank can only be used to store and provide heating and cooking fuel to the household and a household must have a propane tank in order to use propane gas, both the cost of the gas and the rental fee for the tank, even if shown separately on the bill, are allowable shelter costs.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Chris Waters-Kane of the Food Stamp Program, Policy Implementation Unit at (916) 654-1529.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division