



CDSS

JOHN A. WAGNER
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

August 18, 2009

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 09-40

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL PUBLIC ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
CDSS ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: **PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
(PAARP) FUNDING INCREASE CLAIMING GUIDELINES**

REFERENCE: PAARP ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 08-40

The purpose of this ACL is to provide public adoption agencies with information on the reimbursement process for PAARP. This letter also notifies public adoption agencies that their cooperation is necessary to comply with PAARP mandates. Specifically, in order for the private agency to claim PAARP funds, the public agency must provide certain documentation to the private agency and enter data into the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).

The PAARP is governed by Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) section 16122, which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to reimburse private adoption agencies for otherwise unreimbursed costs incurred in completing the adoptions of children who are eligible for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) benefits because of age, membership in a sibling group, medical or psychological problems, adverse parental background, or other circumstances that will make placement of these children especially difficult. Half of the compensation may be claimed after the adoptive placement agreement is signed. The remainder may be claimed once the adoption petition is granted by the court.

The PAARP Increase

- Due to the passage of Senate Bill 84 the maximum PAARP rate, effective February 1, 2008, was increased to \$10,000.
- To be eligible for reimbursement, the agency must be a licensed private adoption agency and the child must meet the criteria defined in the W&IC section 16120.
- The maximum allowable reimbursement claimed for an adoption of an

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

AAP-eligible child is determined by the date the home study of the prospective adoptive parent was approved. The table below reflects the criteria for determining the maximum allowable reimbursement.

	Maximum Allowable Reimbursement		
	After Adoptive Placement	Remainder allowed After Finalization	Finalization
Home Studies Approved <u>Before</u> July 1, 2007	\$2,500 or half the provisional rate, whichever is less.	\$2,500 or half the provisional rate, whichever is less	\$5,000 or the provisional rate, whichever is less
Home Studies Approved <u>On or After</u> July 1, 2007	\$5,000 or half the provisional rate, whichever is less	\$5,000 or half the provisional rate, whichever is less	\$10,000 or the provisional rate, whichever is less

An explanation of the PAARP claiming reimbursement guidelines for all participating private adoption agencies may be obtained at:

<http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1885.htm>

Public Adoption Agency Reimbursement Information

In order for private adoption agencies to receive PAARP reimbursement, cooperation of public adoption agencies is required. Public adoption agencies must provide the following information and copies of the following documents to the licensed private adoption agency at the time an adoption placement agreement is signed:

- Federal Eligibility Certification AAP 4
- Notice of Placement (AD 558)
- A filed copy of the Order/Decree of Adoption (ADOPT 215)
- CMS/CWS Child Identifier Number

Once the proper documents are received, the private adoption agencies will use the following information obtained on these documents to complete their PAARP claims:

- State Case Number
- Child's first name
- AAP Eligibility
- Adoption agency case number
- Federal eligibility information
- Date adoption was finalized

The CWS/CMS

In order for CDSS to verify adoption activities for reimbursement to private adoption agencies and to report required information to the Legislature, the public adoption agency and county welfare departments must ensure that all data necessary for adoptive placements and finalizations is entered into CWS/CMS and is complete, timely and accurate. The CWS/CMS Child Identifier Number will be submitted by the private adoption agency to CDSS on the Private Adoption Agency Program Reimbursement Form (AD 4348).

If you have any questions regarding this ACL, please contact Jill Sevaaetasi, Manager, Recruitment Network Development Unit, Child and Youth Permanency Branch, at (916) 651-7465.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division