



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

May 31, 2011

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 11-42

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
KARUK TRIBE

SUBJECT: FOSTER FAMILY HOME RATE INCREASE AS A RESULT OF
CALIFORNIA STATE FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION v.
WILLIAM LIGHTBOURNE, et al.

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION (§) 11461

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide counties with information and instructions on the increase in foster family home rates as the result of the court order issued on May 27, 2011, in the case of the California State Foster Parent Association v. William Lightbourne, et al. The United States District Court ordered the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to “immediately” increase foster family home rates to reflect the methodology chosen by CDSS and filed with the Court April 8, 2011. The Court ordered that the new rates be paid with the “next round of checks.” We are seeking clarification from the Court, but under CDSS’s interpretation of the Order, the increased rates will be effective from May 31, 2011. Therefore, the checks issued by counties to foster family home providers for services provided after May 31, 2011; that is, for services provided in June 2011, the checks for which will issue in July 2011 shall be as follows:

Age Range	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-19
Current Rate Structure	\$446	\$485	\$519	\$573	\$627
New Rate Structure	\$609	\$660	\$695	\$727	\$761

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The Court further ordered that cost of living adjustments to these rates be made “annually or no later than the first day of the State’s fiscal year, to reflect the change in the California Necessities Index (CNI) for the current fiscal year.” Therefore the rate above shall be increased on July 1, 2011 by 1.92 percent to reflect the change in fiscal year 2011-12 CNI.

This lawsuit involves only the rates paid to foster family homes and does not order an increase to any other programs or benefits.

County staff should contact the Foster Care Rates Policy Unit, Foster Care Rates Bureau, with questions regarding foster family home rates at (916) 651-9152.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services