

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 20, 2002

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 02-70

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
 ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING RECIPIENTS OF THEIR TIME ON AID PRIOR TO THE 60th MONTH ON AID

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11454, 11454.5 AND 11495.1; ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACL) 99-90, 03-01, AND 02-33; AND ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-47-02

This letter provides advance instructions on new regulation requirements to inform recipients of their time on aid by a notice of action (NOA) prior to the 60th month of aid.

Detailed procedures for informing recipients of their time on aid were set by emergency regulations previously provided in ACL 02-33. These regulations became effective March 1, 2002, and went to public hearing in April 2002. In response to testimony, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) modified the informing process. As noted in ACIN I-47-02, the regulations were readopted with a change giving county welfare departments (CWDs) the option to issue a 54th month informing notice (CW 2189) instead of a NOA.

The regulations are currently undergoing further modifications. One of these changes requires CWDs to issue at least one time-on-aid NOA during the period of the recipient's 54th through 58th countable months on aid, in addition to the normal NOA for month 60. The required time limit information on the NOA must include the number of months that aid was received and the specific months exempt from the time limit.

Some counties are already meeting this requirement by providing 54th month NOAs with the required information on countable and exempt months. Also, this requirement is being met by providing the required NOAs at application or redetermination, for cases where the application or redetermination occurs during the 54th through 58th month period. However, counties that have chosen to send a 54th month informing notice rather than a NOA, must take all steps necessary to ensure that they provide a NOA to each recipient in one month during the 54th through 58th month period.

The NOA will ensure that recipients are fully informed of their time on aid and that they are provided the exemptions to which they are entitled. It will also give recipients the opportunity to appeal the county determination and resolve any discrepancies regarding their time on aid prior to the expiration of their time limits and the resulting grant reduction.

In the near future, another ACL will be issued with a complete description of the changes to the 60-month time limit regulations, including any new or revised NOAs necessary as a result of the modifications.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact Charissa S. Miguelino at (916) 657-3665.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by Bruce Wagstaff
on September 20, 2002***

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA
CSAC