DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 16, 1980

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 80-42

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES

SUBJECT: FINGERPRINTING OF ADOPTIVE APPLICANTS AND PETITIONERS TO ADOPT

REFERENCE:

Section 226.55 of the Civil Code authorizes local public adoption agencies to require persons applying or petitioning to adopt children in California to be fingerprinted for the purpose of obtaining from the State Department of Justice information regardingcriminal records such persons may have. The imposition of this requirement is permissive; however, if a particular county adoption agency elects to require fingerprinting, all petitioners and applicants must be fingerprinted; the requirement may not be applied in an arbitrary or selective manner.

Fingerprint cards (BID-7) may be ordered from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Criminal Identification, P.O. Box 13417, Sacramento, California 95813, Attention: Quality Control Section, (916) 322-5261. (See attached)

Costs for taking of prints and completion of the card should be borne by the applicant/petitioner.

The Department of Justice charges a fee of \$6.10 for the processing of each completed fingerprint card. The fee is reimbursable and can be entered as a Group II Other Operating Cost on the Administrative Expense Claim. Monthly billing for the processing of cards may be arranged by contacting the Department of Justice's Central Services Unit, Attention: Bea Pruss, P.O. Box 13367, Sacramento, California 95813.

Criminal record information is to be stored in a "secure area". This is interpreted to mean that rap sheets are part of the case record and are to be secured in a locked filing cabinet. Information regarding security and release of criminal history information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Thad McNamara, Department of Justice, Criminal Records Security Unit, P.O. Box 13281, Sacramento, California 95813, (916) 445-9273.

If your agency wishes to take its own prints, training may be procured by contacting the Department of Justice, Fingerprint Program, Bureau of Criminal Identification, P.O. Box 13417, Sacramento, California 95813, (916) 322-2746.

Questions regarding fingerprinting should be addressed to Mr. John McConnell, (916) 322-3778. Questions regarding fiscal problems which may arise in connection with fingerprinting should be referred to the County Fiscal Ad- ministration Bureau, (916) 445-7046.

Sincerely,

GOME JAMES H. Deputy Director

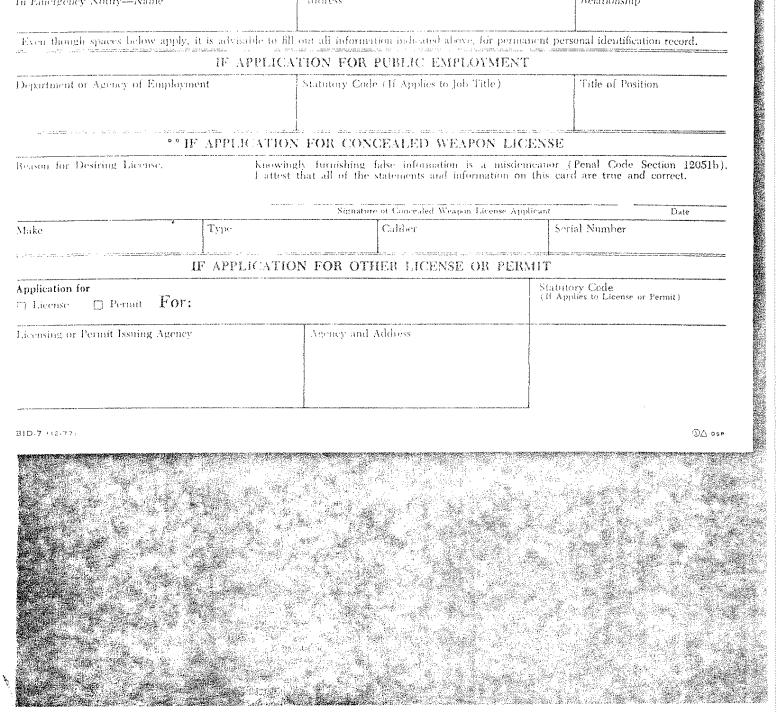
Attachments

cc: CWDA

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