

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 9, 1997

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 97/98-18

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
COUNTY AUDITOR CONTROLLERS
COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE CLAIM INSTRUCTIONS FOR VETERAN'S BENEFITS
FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Counties were informed via All County Information Notice (ACIN) No. I-15-97, dated March 12, 1997 that veterans benefits were available for qualified children in foster care. The ACIN stated that pursuant to 38 United States Code, Chapters 11, 15, and 35, some of the veterans benefits may be available to veterans' children placed in foster care. If a child is eligible, payments would be made by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of the child to an appointed fiduciary. For children in foster care who are dependents and/or wards of the court, the County Welfare Department (CWD) or County Probation Department would be the designated fiduciary.

In order to obtain these benefits on behalf of an eligible child in foster care, the CWD eligibility worker must complete form CA-5 and forward the form to the County Veterans Service Office. If benefits are then received, the money collected by the CWD would be considered current income. As such, any amount collected should then be abated on the appropriate foster care assistance claim by entering the amount as a negative on the "Recoveries of Aid" line which is consistent with claiming instructions listed in Manual of Policy and Procedures, Division 25-740.8, CFL No. 90/91-48, and All County Letter No. 88-69. Counties must also add this information to the schedule of adjustments that is required to be sent as part of the foster care assistance claim support documentation as required in CFL No. 96/97-48.

If you should have any questions regarding these claiming instructions, please contact your Fiscal Policy Bureau County Consultant at (916) 657-3440 or your County Veterans Service Office for questions regarding veterans benefits.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. E. Peacher, Jr.", written over a faint grid background.

GEORGE E. PEACHER, JR., Chief
Fiscal Systems and Accounting Branch