

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

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REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

May 14, 2014	[] State Law Change [] Federal Law or Regulation Change
ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-20-14	[] Court Order[] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties[X] Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO

KIDS (CalWORKS) AND CALFRESH: REVISED SAR 7 AND

SAR 7A FORMS

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) No. 12-25; ACL No. 12-59; ACL No.

13-26; ACL No. 13-80; ACL No. 13-99.

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to highlight recent changes to the CalWORKs and CalFresh SAR 7 and SAR 7A forms.

The ACL No. 12-25, dated May 17, 2012, issued new policy instructions to the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) for the implementation of Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) in the CalWORKs and CalFresh programs. In ACL No. 13-80, revised SAR 7 and SAR 7A forms were released to CWDs. Since then, additional modifications have been made to the SAR 7 and SAR 7A to promote readability and clarity and to further assist in ensuring clients have sufficient guidance to be able to submit complete reports. The following is a summary of the changes to the forms which are effective for use immediately.

Revised SAR 7 form

- A double line was added before question 1 in order to clearly separate the "stop my benefits" section from the rest of the questions.
- Questions 5 through 8 were changed so the wording used to ask clients to complete the section below and provide proof is the same in each question.

- Question 7, regarding dependent or child care on the SAR 7, was changed to simply, "dependent care." Any place child/children was mentioned is now replaced with "dependent(s)." Additionally, the words "out-of-pocket" were added to modify the type of costs clients must report.
- Question 8 was changed so that "prior social security" is now referred to as "back benefits from social security," and the place to list the amount of the property now says "amount/value."
- For question 9, "employer name" was added after "source of income," and a bold line was added under "hours worked per month," to clearly indicate that the question ends there.
- In the prior version of the SAR 7, question 9, used to also ask, "Will there be any changes to your job or income in the next six months?" That question is now a separate stand-alone question number 12.
- The prior question 10 was renumbered to question 11. A bold line was added at the bottom of the chart to clearly indicate that the question 11 ends there.
- In the prior version of the SAR 7, question 10, used to also ask, "Will there be changes to this income in the next six months?" That question is now a separate stand-alone question number 12. Examples of unearned income were added for clarity, and space was created for an explanation, if one is needed.
- Question 11 from the prior SAR 7 was renumbered to question 13.

Revised SAR 7A form

The SAR 7A was also updated to reflect modified instructions to match the changes that were made to the SAR 7 described above. The following modifications were made to the section "How to Fill Out Each Question," and are identified by the corresponding question on the SAR 7:

- Instructions for Question 1 included grammatical changes, as well as minor wording changes for clarity. In addition, the word "dies" was changed to "died."
- The second paragraph of the instructions for former question 9 is now identified as instructions for question 10, and is titled "Changes in Employment Income."
 Slight modifications in language were made to clarify the type of changes clients should report.

- Instructions for the former question 10 were renumbered to question 11.
- Instructions that were included in the last paragraph of the former section 10 are now included as instructions for question 12, and are titled "Changes to Other Income."
- Question 11 was renumbered to question 13.

Camera Ready Copies and Translations

For camera-ready copies in English, contact the Forms Management Unit at fmudss@dss.ca.gov. If your office has internet access you may obtain these forms from the CDSS webpage at:

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm.

When all translations are completed per Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 21-115.2, including Spanish forms, they are posted on an on-going basis on the CDSS webpage. Copies of the translated forms can be obtained at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu 274.htm.

For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876. Until translations are available, recipients who have elected to receive materials in languages other than English should be sent the English version of the form or notice along with the <u>GEN 1365-Notice of Language Services</u> and a local contact number.

CWDs shall ensure that effective bilingual services are provided. This requirement may be met through utilization of paid interpreters, qualified bilingual employees, and qualified employees of other agencies or community resources. These services shall be provided free of charge to the applicant/recipient. In the event that CDSS does not provide translations of a form, it is the county's responsibility to provide the translation if an applicant or recipient requests it. More information regarding translations can be found in MPP Section 21-115.

This ACL and other CDSS Letters and Notices are available on the internet at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/default.htm

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If you have any questions regarding this ACIN and the revised forms, please contact the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322 or the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility Branch

LINDA PATTERSON, Chief CalFresh Branch

Attachments

HOW TO FILL OUT YOUR SAR 7 ELIGIBILITY STATUS REPORT

For Cash Aid and CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamp) Benefits

Save this form to help you fill out your SAR 7 (Eligibility Status Report). If you need help filling out your report, call the County.

- If you do not send in a complete report, your benefits may be delayed, changed, or stopped, or cause an overpayment that you will have to pay back. You must answer all the questions, and attach proof when we ask for it.
- Attach a separate sheet of paper if needed.
- Facts you report may cause your benefits to go up, down, or be stopped.



INSTRUCTIONS

How Often You Must Complete the SAR 7 Once a year; (6 months after your application/annual renewal). The County will tell you when your SAR 7 is due.

Reporting For People Who Are Living In Your Home If your family gets cash aid, report facts for:

- All children-natural, adopted, and stepchildren.
- All parents-natural, adoptive, and stepparent.
- Other aided relatives in the child's case.
- Yourself and your spouse or registered domestic partner.
- Anyone who is temporarily absent from the home.

If your family gets *CalFresh* (with or without cash aid) you must also report facts for:

- All children.
- All related adults.
- All other people in the household who regularly buy and prepare food with you.

Asking To Stop Benefits

- On the SAR 7, fill out the section to stop benefits **only** if you want to stop any of your benefits. Check the benefits you want stopped, and sign and date the SAR 7. If you only want to stop some of your benefits and keep others, you must fill out the rest of the SAR 7.
- You can also stop your benefits by contacting the County.
- If you ask to have your cash aid stopped, your Medi-Cal may also be stopped or changed. You may not be eligible for Medi-Cal or you may have to pay a share of cost for it.

HOW TO FILL OUT EACH QUESTION
Household information (Question 1)
List any changes in who lives with you, changes to your address (including changes in apartment number, and changes in housing costs since you last reported). This includes: newborns; people who are temporarily absent from the home; or anyone who died, externed or left a hospital or institution (including in the process). entered or left a hospital or institution (including jail or prison),

Address Change/Housing Costs (Questions 2 and 3)
Give us the facts about any changes in your address or phone number since you last reported. If you are getting CalFresh, you may be asked to give proof of new housing costs like rent and utilities. If your costs have increased because of the move, be sure to list the new amounts. This may increase your CalFresh benefits

Convictions, Fleeing and Parole/Probation Violations (Question 4)

This question applies to anyone already living with you who had any of these happen since you last reported. It is ALSO for anyone who moved into your household who may have a drug felony conviction, who is running from the law or in violation of parole/probation. We need the person's name, the place, and date of the arrest/conviction.

If you reported the information to the County before, you do not need to report the same information.

Expenses (CalFresh Information) (Questions 5, 6 and 7)
These questions may change your CalFresh benefits. This information may lower the income we count and increase your benefits. For people age 60 and older or who are disabled, report any changes to your out of pocket medical costs. For any CalFresh household, report changes to your costs for child or adult dependent care needed for work or training. If you pay child support, report any changes in the amount paid. Attach proof to see if you can get more benefits.

Property (Question 8)
List anyone who got, bought, sold, traded, spent or gave away any property. Property includes: land, home, cars, bank accounts, money payments (lottery or casino winnings, retroactive social security, tax refunds, etc). Include gifts and loans. List whose property, the type of property, when it changed, and the value of the property ("amount" on the form). Check the box for what happened. Attach proof.

If you have already reported and provided proof of new property, you do not have to report it again unless there has been a change.

Employment income (Question 9)
List <u>all</u> income from employment (work) — earnings, tips, training allowances, benefits, or other earnings anyone got in the report month. List the amount before taxes or deductions (the gross amount). Attach proof.

- Employment income includes but is not limited to paychecks, cash income, vacation pay, bonuses, money from self-employment, temporary job or training income, rental income, IHSS, etc.
- if self-employed, you can get a 40% deduction for expenses without proof. If your expenses are higher and you want to claim actual expenses, list all business expenses on a separate sheet of paper. Attach proof if using actual expenses.

Changes in Employment Income (Question 10)
We need to know if income will continue or if there will be changes. If your income will stay the same, we will use the amount you report as your income for the next 6 months. If you know there will be changes in income, tell us why, how much and when. If you aren't sure, you can also report the change when it happens. For example, if you were offered a job and know your hourly wage and schedule, you must report this even if you haven't started working or been paid yet. Also, if you are working on-call or have a schedule that changes a lot, write this information on your SAR 7 form.

Proof of employment income includes but is not limited to: check stubs, copies of checks or statements from the employer etc., or tax statements for self-employed.

Other Income (Question 11)
List all other income from any other source. Attach proof.

Disability or Retirement income includes SSI, Social Security, Veteran's disability benefits, worker's compensation or any other disability/retirement payments.

Unemployment benefits

Other: lottery winnings; insurance or legal settlements; gifts or loans; rental assistance; free housing/utilities/clothing/food (or if someone paid all of these costs for you); or anything

List (1) who got the income, (2) where they got the money from, and (3) the amount they got.

Changes in Other Income (Question 12)

Tell us if you think the income will continue or if you know it will change. If you know it will change, tell us when it will change and how much.

Proof of other types of income includes but is not limited to: check stubs, copies of the checks, award letters from the agency you got the money from, etc.

Any Other Changes (Question 13)
List other things that could change your eligibility or the amount of your benefits. Examples of changes you should report are listed on the SAR 7.

WHO MUST SIGN THE SAR 7

- For Cash Aid: You and your aided spouse, registered domestic partner, or the other parent (of cash-aided children), if they live in your home.
- For CalFresh: The head of household, authorized representative, or responsible household member.
- And for Both: Any other person who helps fill out the report, an interpreter, or the witness to your mark.

WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY

RUNNING FROM THE LAW: A person is considered avoiding or running from the law if an arrest warrant has been issued and the person knew or should have known from the facts that law enforcement was looking for them.

CASH AID: CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Trafficking and Crime Victim Assistance Program (TCVAP), and Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA).

CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT: The payment you must make to a person for your child or stepchild. Include payments made by a stepparent living in your home.

COMPLETE SAR 7: A SAR 7 is "complete" only when:

- All of the YES/NO questions are answered, and
- All of the information is filled in. and
- · All of the proof is attached when the form asks for it, and
- · All of the required signatures are on the form, and
- The form is signed and dated after the last day of the report month.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE: Any drug restricted by federal or state law, including but not limited to, narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens and marijuana.

DRUG RELATED FELONY:

A drug-related felony means a conviction for possession, use, manufacturing, or distribution of a controlled substance(s).

GROSS AMOUNT: The amount of your paycheck or other check (unemployment benefit, retirement, etc.), before deductions are taken out for taxes, social security, etc.

IN VIOLATION OF PROBATION OR PAROLE: A court has found you to be in violation of the terms of your probation or parole. The original crime for which probation or parole was ordered could be for a felony or misdemeanor.

REPORT MONTH: The month shown at the top of the SAR 7. Report all income you got and any changes that happened in this month.

SUBMIT MONTH: The month you sign and date the report and turn it in. The submit month is shown at the top of the SAR 7, under the report month.

CERTIFICATION SECTION

- You must sign the SAR 7 "under penalty of perjury." This
 means that you swear (promise) that the facts you give us
 are true, correct, and complete.
- Perjury is a crime it means you swore (promised) to tell the truth and then you were dishonest.

REMEMBER:

- The report is due by the 5th of the submit month. Try to get it in on time to avoid problems with your benefits.
- If your report is late (after the 11th of the submit month), not complete or not turned in, your benefits may be late, changed, or stopped.
- If the County gets your report too late in the month to decrease your benefits based on what you reported, you may be charged with an overpayment and have to pay it back.
- If your report is not complete when you turn it in, you will be asked to complete the questions you did not answer and/or turn in the proof that the report asked for. Your benefits may be late.
- If you sign and date your report before the first day of the submit month, you will be asked to sign and date it again.
- If you are not sure how to report, what to report or what proof you need to send in, ask the County.
- If your cash aid stops, you may still be eligible for CalFresh benefits even if you are now employed.
- If your cash aid stops, you may still be eligible for no-cost or low-cost health coverage under Medi-Cal.

WELFARE FRAUD:

- Welfare fraud is when you fail to report information, or report the wrong information, on purpose in order to try to get more benefits.
- Fraud is a crime.

PENALTIES FOR <u>CASH AID</u> WELFARE FRAUD: If you are convicted of fraud or if you are disqualified for intentionally (on purpose) not reporting your eligibility information correctly, you may lose your share of the cash aid. How long you will lose it depends on what the crime was and whether you had committed fraud before. You may also have to pay a fine up to \$10,000 and/or be sent to jail or prison for up to 3 years.

Your cash aid can be stopped:

- For not reporting all facts or for giving wrong facts: 6 months for the first time, 12 months for the second time, or forever for the third.
- For turning in more than one application to get aid for the same family members in a different case in the same time period: 2 years for the first conviction, 4 years for the second, and forever for the third.
- For <u>conviction</u> of felony welfare fraud penalties are: 2 years for extra benefits under \$2,000; 5 years for amounts of \$2,000 through \$4,999; and **forever** for amounts of \$5,000 or more.
- Forever: for giving the county false proof of residency in order to get aid in two or more counties or states at the same time; intentionally (on purpose) giving the county wrong facts for an ineligible child or a child that does not exist; getting more than \$10,000 in cash benefits through fraud; getting a third conviction for fraud in a court or an administrative hearing.

PENALTIES FOR <u>CalFresh</u> FRAUD:

If you are convicted of fraud or if you are disqualified for intentionally (on purpose) not reporting your eligibility information correctly, your CalFresh can be stopped for 12 months for the first violation, 24 months for the second, and forever for the third. You may be fined up to \$250,000 and/or sent to jail or prison for 20 years.

Your CalFresh can be stopped if you are found guilty in any court of law or administrative hearing because:

- You traded or sold CalFresh benefits for firearms, ammunition, or explosives, your CalFresh benefits can be stopped forever for the first violation.
- You traded or sold CalFresh benefits for controlled substances. Your CalFresh benefits can be stopped for 24 months for the first violation and forever for the second.
- You traded or sold CalFresh benefits that were worth \$500 or more. Your CalFresh benefits can be stopped forever.
- You gave the county false identity or residence information, to try to get CalFresh benefits in more than one case at the same time. Your CalFresh benefits can be stopped for 10 years.

SAR 7 ELIGIBILITY STATUS REPORT



REPORT MONTH _____

TO KEEP YOUR BENEF	TITS COMING ON TIME,	PLEASE SIGN 1	THE FORM AFTERSUBMIT	1st AND RET	TURN IT BY5th	
CASE NUMBER HERE			NEED HELP? (Cour	nty Specific instruction		
C.	ASE NUMBER HERE		Worker Name:			
			Worker Phone:		[DIST. ID HERE]	
			County:			
			Street address:			
			City, State, Zip Code			
			BAR CODE:			
			lowing: STOP my Cal STOP my Me	di-Cal	-	
		ne (including ne plete the section t	wborns) or did you move	in with someone e	lse since you last	
•	33 — 140 (II yes, comp			1 = -4		
Date of Move (mm/dd/yy)	(First	Name , Middle, Last)	Date Of Birth	Relationship To	Regularly Purchase And Prepare Food Together?	
☐ In ☐ Out /	1	,,	1 1	100	YES NO	
☐ In ☐ Out /	1		1 1		☐ YES ☐ NO	
☐ In ☐ Out /	1		1 1		☐ YES ☐ NO	
2. Have there been an	y changes to your add	ress since you la	ast reported? 🗌 Yes 🛭	No (If yes, comple	ete the section below)	
New Address:					ed:	
				Date Move	30:	
Mailing Address (if d	ifferent than above)					
3. If you have moved	since you last reported	please fill out t	he section below:			
our rent or mortgage per month	now?	paid separately, your p	property taxes and home insurance	per month now?		
Do you have utility costs Trash	that are not included in y	/our rent or morto ric/Gas 🔲 Ot	age payment? If so, chec her heating or cooling cost	k which ones:		
	anyone in your home:		nor neating or cooming cost			
A. A felon whose	conviction was drug-re					
	in outstanding warrant? irt to be in violation of i		rolo 2			
	o (If yes, complete the se		ole :			
Name of	Name of person			lid the arrest or	Date of arrest and/or	
		from above	convictio	n happen?	conviction	
			rs old or older, or disable	ed, had an increase	in medical costs please	
Vho had the change?	n below and attach pro	01:				
vno nau tne change?			Amount of increase:			
. Child Support: Did	anvone who gets CalFr	resh have a char	nge in the amount of chil	d support they have	to nav since they lest	
reported? Yes	☐ No If yes, complete	e the section belo	ow and attach proof .	a support they have	to pay since they last	
	t paid in the Report Mor		_;			
Who paid support?						
Dependent Care: If	anyone who gets CalFr	resh and either v	works, is looking for worl	c, or is going to sch	ool, had an increase in	
			d, please complete the s	ection below and at	tach proof:	
	t paid out-of-pocket in the					
	ıv səll trada or givə aw					
. Did anyone: Get, bu lottery/casino winnii	ry, seri, iraue or give aw nas, back benefits from	ray any property I social security	, land, homes, cars, bank), or other property items	accounts, money, p	payments (such as	
Yes No (If	ves, complete the section	n below and atta	ch proof. If you need mo	e soace attach a co	narate niece of paper)	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				parate piece of paper).	
Who?	Type of Property?	When?	Amount/Value? Bou	ght 🗌 Sold 🔲	Gave Away Spent	
			☐ Got	as a gift 🔲 Traded	□ Won □ Other	

 Did anyone get income from employ proof). The Report Month is listed at a separate piece of paper. Examples in 	the top of the finclude babysitti	irst page. Lis ng, salary, se	? Yes t t each job for ead lf-employment, s	No (If yes, comple ch person who works ick pay, tips. etc.	te the sectio	n below and attacl more space attacl		
	J	ob #1		Job #2		Job #3		
Name of person who got income:								
Source of income/Employer name:	Self-employed, c	heck here	Self-employe	Self-employed, check here		Self-employed, check here		
How often paid:	Weekly Monthly	Biweekly (Other Weekly Monthly			Weekly Biweekly Other Monthly Twice monthly		
Gross amount of income they got in the	\$		\$	\$		\$		
report month:	DATE(S) RECEIVED	:	DATE(S) RECE	DATE(S) RECEIVED:		DATE(S) RECEIVED:		
Hours worked per month:								
Will there be any changes to your jo increase or decrease of income; chang (If yes, explain here and attach proof):	es in nouis, cui	e listed in #9 tting a job or	in the next six going on strike; o	months? Examples thange in how often y	s: Stopping o	or starting a job; Yes No		
11. Did anyone get money from any othe attach proof.) The Report Month is lied Examples include: Social Security, Une Support, Worker's Compensation, Loan	sted at the top a	of the first par	ge. Veteran's Benefit	No (If yes, comple s, State Disability Ins cood, etc.				
Name		Source of i	ncome	One time payment	or monthly	How much		
						\$		
						\$		
12. Will there be any changes to the income or benefits, or if you if yes, explain here and attach proof:	ome or benefit u will start or st	s listed in #1 op getting ind	1 in the next six ome or benefits.	months? Example ☐ Yes ☐ No	es of changes	s: An increase or		
non-California Domestic Partnershi Job/Employment (Start, stop, quit a Disability (Became disabled or reco Immigration (Citizenship or immigra Insurance (Started, stopped, or cha Custody (Any change in the amoun In-Home Support Services (Started School Attendance *Student age 6-18 stopped or starte *For Age 16 or older student- starte school transportation, etc.) Someone paid for all of my housing Other	job, started a lavered from a dition status chain anged health, det of time you can or stopped get attending sold or stopped sold or stopped so	pusiness or was ability or mange, or got a cental, or life in the for/have counting services' and regularly chool/college!	ent on strike?)	or letter from USCIS , including MEDICAF ildren?) Die to claim costs for	(INS)?) RE?) books,			
Please read carefully, sign, and date.	· ·							
By signing this form: I understand and certify, under penaltic knowledge. I understand the penalties for fraud a pay back benefits if I was not eligible year; the second time two years; and I understand and agree to give copies I understand that in some instances, determine eligibility.	ty of perjury, that re as follows: I to them. The fi after the third t s of all document I may be asked	may be sent rest time I brea ime I will not nts needed to to give conse	vers on this report to prison for up to ak the rules on proper able to get Ca complete my se ent to the County	t are correct and cor o 20 years and fined urpose I will not be a alFresh again. mi-annual report, to make whatever co	nplete to the up to \$250,0 ble to get Ca ontacts are no	best of my 00. I may have to IFresh for one ecessary to		
	CERTIFIC	CATION - FI	RAUD WARNIN	IG	45, 450			
I UNDERSTAND THAT: If on purpose I do getting aid or benefits, I can be legally pros CalFresh is wrongly paid out as a result of Status Report for Cash Aid and CalFresh.	such an action.	also be charg I have receiv	led with committing the deciding the decidin	ng a felony if more to Instructions and Per	han \$950 in (alties for the	Cash Aid, and/or SAR 7 Eligibility		
YOU MUST SIGN AND DATE THIS REPORT AND I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws and complete. WHO MUST For Cash Aid: You and your SIGN RELOW:	aided shouse rec	istered domes	tate of California th	nat the facts contained i	n this report a	re true and correct		
SIGIR BELOW. FOI CAIFTESII. THE HEAD OF HE	ousehold, a respo	insidie nousend	or the	household's authorized	representative	iiving in the home.		
SIGNATURE OR MARK		DATE SIGNED	HOME PHONE		CONTACT/CELL	PHONE		
SIGNATURE OF SPOUSE, REGISTERED DOMESTIC PARTNE PARENT OF CASH AIDED CHILD(REN)	R, OR OTHER	DATE SIGNED	/ BIGNATURE OF WITNES COMPLETING FORM	S TO MARK, INTERPRETER,	OR OTHER PERSO	DATE SIGNED		