

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



January 22, 2001

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 05-01

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY OPTIONS FOR RECOVERY PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: OPTIONS FOR RECOVERY PROGRAM

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2037 (STATUTES OF 2000, CHAPTER 799)

This Letter is to advise you of the passage of AB 2037 (Corbett), signed by the Governor and chaptered on September 28, 2000 (Statutes of 2000, Chapter 799). The provisions of this bill amend Section 16525.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to increase the age of eligibility for participation in the Foster Care Options for Recovery (OFR) Program from 36 months to 60 months, and became effective January 1, 2001. It further allows foster parents and/or relative caregivers of OFR children who were "aged out" of the program to re-enroll.

There are no additional funds allocated to the OFR Program to provide services for the additional two years. A county that has been participating in the OFR program for a minimum of three years may extend services to eligible children up to 60 months using funds within the county's existing allocation. However, if a county has been participating in the OFR program for less than three years, and has exhausted its current fiscal year's allocation, additional funds may be requested through your county's Children and Families Commission responsible for the administration of Proposition 10 funds (the Tobacco Initiative).

Because AB 2037 extends the age of eligibility, medically fragile children will now be less likely to experience multiple placements, thus establishing a more stable environment. It further allows them to fully mature prior to entering the mainstream educational and social system.

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If you require further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marsha Tagawa, OFR Program Consultant, at (916) 327-6925.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA PIZZINI
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA