

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



August 05, 2002

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 02-59

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS
 ALL COUNTY LICENSING PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING CHILDREN'S
 RESIDENTIAL OFFICES
 ALL COUNTY WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL JUVENILE COURT JUDGES
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: **ADOPTIONS & SAFE FAMILIES ACT (ASFA) and AB 1695
 PERIODIC INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF APPROVED
 RELATIVE AND NON-RELATIVE EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER HOMES**

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) #01-85
 ACL #02-58

The federal Department of Health and Human Services has expressed concerns about California's efforts to ensure that children in the child welfare services system are placed in safe, suitable, licensed/approved homes. In order to continue to claim Federal financial participation for approved homes, the homes must be periodically assessed to determine the continued appropriateness of the placement in compliance with State foster family home licensing/approval standards.

Current law (Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 309(d)) and regulation (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 9.5, Article 3, Caregiver Standards) require that counties periodically inspect and evaluate all approved homes for quality of care at least once per year, and as often as necessary, to ensure compliance with foster family home licensing/approval standards. When the periodic inspection and evaluation has been completed, a statement must be included in the case file or court report that the home continues to meet the approval standards.

Further, if a child in an approved relative or nonrelative extended family member home moves from that home to the approved home of another relative or nonrelative extended family member, the one-year cycle would begin from the date that the new home was approved.

For questions regarding this ACL contact Harriet Hopgood, Manager, Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit at (916) 323-9750, or Melonnee Pagano at (916) 445-2189.

Sincerely,
 Original signed by Sylvia Pizzini

SYLVIA PIZZINI
 Deputy Director
 Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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