

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



May 4, 1998

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 98-27

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ALL
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: **SIX (6) PERCENT INCREASE TO THE BASIC RATE, THE SPECIALIZED CARE RATE AND THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE**

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide counties with information and instruction concerning the effect of Assembly Bill (AB) 1391 (Chapter 944, Statutes of 1997) on foster care rates.

AB 1391 increases the basic rates referenced in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 11461(a) by six percent, the specialized care rate referenced in WIC Section 11461(e)(1) by six percent, and the clothing allowance referenced in WIC Section 11461(f)(1) by six percent beginning July 1, 1998. The provisions of AB 1391 **do not** apply to the amount paid for the infant supplement as described in Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 11-415, the rates paid to Foster Family Agencies, or the rates paid to group homes.

Basic rates

The basic rates referenced in WIC Section 11461(a) shall be increased by six percent effective July 1, 1998 in accordance with the methodology described in WIC Section 11461(c)(4). In accordance with rounding requirements specified in WIC Section 11017 and Division 45 regulations (45-302.431), all dollar amounts listed on the following page under the Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98 have been rounded down to the nearest dollar.

For example, \$345 x 6 percent = \$20.70. The \$20.70 is rounded *down* to \$20.00 (Per WIC 11017 and 45-302.431). \$345 + \$20 = \$365.

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The following chart documents the increased basic rates effective July 1, 1998:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current Basic Rate</u>	<u>Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98</u>
0-4	\$345	\$365
5-8	\$375	\$397
9-11	\$400	\$424
12-14	\$444	\$470
15-19	\$484	\$513

Except as noted below, any county choosing to pay a rate higher than the basic rates specified above after July 1, 1998 shall pay the excess dollar amount using county-only funds.

Due to a grandfathering of their rates which occurred when the basic rates were added by statute in 1989, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Marin counties pay some basic rates that vary from the basic rates specified in WIC Section I 146l(a) with State and federal financial participation for otherwise eligible children. The following process was used to determine the dollar amounts of the basic rates for these five counties effective July 1, 1998:

If a county's pre-July 1, 1998 basic rate is higher than the pre-July 1, 1998 basic rate specified in WIC Section 1146l(a), but **less than** the post-July 1, 1998 basic rate specified in this ACL, the county's pre-July 1, 1998 basic rate was increased by the percentage needed to equalize the WIC Section 1146l(a) basic rate effective July 1, 1998, but in no event more than the basic rate effective July 1, 1998 authorized by AB 1391.

If a county's pre-July 1, 1998 basic rate is higher than the pre-July 1, 1998 basic rate specified in WIC Section I 146l(a), **and continues to be higher** than the basic rate specified in WIC Section I 146l(a) effective July 1, 1998, the county's post-July 1, 1998 basic rate remains at its pre-July 1, 1998 level. Some of this county's rates **continue to be higher** than the basic rates specified in WIC Section 1146l(a) effective July 1, 1998. Therefore, no adjustments were made to these rates.

The following are the basic rates for each of these five counties:

Los Angeles County

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current Basic Rate</u>	<u>Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98</u>
0-4	\$345	\$365
5-8	\$385	\$397
9-11	\$428	\$428*
12-14	\$464	\$470

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Orange County

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current Basic Rate</u>	<u>Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98</u>
0-4	\$345	\$365
5-8	\$381	\$397
9-11	\$400	\$424
12-14	\$536	\$536*
15-19	\$536	\$536*

San Diego County

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current Basic Rate</u>	<u>Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98</u>
0-4	\$345	\$365
5-8	\$380	\$397
9-11	\$400	\$424
12-14	\$444	\$470
15-19	\$484	\$513

Santa Clara County

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current Basic Rate</u>	<u>Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98</u>
0-4	\$345	\$365
5-8	\$375	\$397
9-11	\$428	\$428*
12-14	\$444	\$470
15-19	\$484	\$513

Marin County

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current Basic Rate</u>	<u>Basic Rate Effective 7/1/98</u>
0-4	\$372	\$372*
5-6	\$375	\$397
7-12	\$453	\$453*
13-19	\$517	\$517*

* These county basic rates continue to be higher than the rates specified in WIC Section 1146I(a) following the six percent increase effective July 1, 1998. Again, these rates are eligible for State and federal financial participation for otherwise eligible children in these counties

Except as noted above, any county choosing to pay a rate higher than the basic rates specified in WIC Section 1146I(a) or higher than these exceptions, shall pay the excess dollar amount with county-only funds.

Specialized Care

The specialized care rates referenced in WIC Section 1461(e)(1) shall be increased by six percent effective July 1, 1998. Due to the fact that specialized care rates vary in amount paid from county to county, no chart documenting the new specialized care rates is provided. All counties shall contact Greg Lim, Specialized Care Program Analyst, at (916) 324-4288 to determine how the six percent increase effective July 1, 1998 applies to their county's specialized care rate. No county shall receive State or federal financial participation for any increase to the specialized care rate which exceeds six percent.

Clothing Allowance

The clothing allowance referenced in WIC Section 11461(e) (1) shall be increased by six percent effective July 1, 1998. Due to the fact that clothing allowances vary in amount paid from county to county, no chart documenting the new clothing allowances is provided. To ensure that the California Department of Social Services' county clothing allowance records are current and to prevent future audit disallowances, all counties shall submit in writing the dollar amount(s) of their county's clothing allowance(s), including the six percent increase effective July 1, 1998 to:

Department of Social Services
744 P Street M.S. 19-73
Sacramento, California 95814

No county shall receive State or federal financial participation for any increase to the clothing allowance which exceeds six percent.

If you have additional questions about the impact of AB 1391 upon WIC Section 11461 et seq., please contact your Program Analyst in the Foster Care Funding/ Systems Unit at (916) 323-1263.

Sincerely,



MARJORIE KELLY
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

C: CWDA