



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

May 20, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor 
FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: REVISED POLICY FOR ISSUING CalWORKs STAGE 1 CHILD CARE RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS

This is to inform you that in accordance with instructions from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), my Department will implement a revised policy by June 1, 2003 for restricted payment of retroactive child care. The revised policy will limit retroactive payments for CalWORKs Stage 1 child care to 30 calendar days prior to the participant's request for the services.

Significantly, the California Department of Education, which administers Stage 2 and Stage 3 child care, has prohibited any retroactive child care payments for some time.

Background

On March 19, 2002, I advised your Board of the Department's intent to implement what is now the current policy on issuing retroactive Stage 1 child care payments beyond 30 calendar days of the request date. We allow such payments retroactively to January 1, 1998 (CalWORKs implementation) or the date of child care eligibility, whichever is later, subject to the participant providing documentation that the child care was actually paid. This must be verified with cancelled checks, money orders or tax returns. Initially, when CalWORKs was implemented, counties were given local flexibility in developing Stage 1 child care policy.

Most recently, Assembly Bill (AB) 444 was signed into law on September 28, 2002. It limits retroactive payments for CalWORKs Stage 1 child care to 30 calendar days prior to an applicant's/participant's request for the services. It also requires that all applicants and participants are informed in writing of the availability of subsidized child care and the State's new retroactive payment policy.

Although CDSS targets the adoption of emergency regulations by July 1, 2003 to reflect these changes in law, AB 444 authorizes implementation of its provisions through the CDSS All-County Letter (ACL) process. CDSS released ACL No. 03-10, dated February 27, 2003, providing implementation instructions on the retroactive payment provisions of AB 444.

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Revised Policy Implementation

We are currently developing the procedures and revising forms to comply with the State's new policy on retroactive Stage 1 child care payments and have targeted implementation by June 1, 2003. This means we will no longer accept documentation of child care being paid beyond 30 calendar days of the request for the services.

Participants will be notified in writing of child care availability and the new retroactive payment policy at CalWORKs application, redetermination, GAIN orientation, and upon request for child care.

BY:sl

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel