HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

4234-7320

(916) 657-2941

July 21, 1995

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter No.: 95-44

VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) FOR NEWBORNS

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) No. 91-66

The purpose of this letter is to elaborate on issues addressed in the above referenced item.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER VERIFICATION

Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 50168 provides, in part, that the county welfare department must obtain verification of the Social Security Number (SSN) (or that the application for a SSN/evidence of a SSN has been made) within 60 days of the date of the initial Medi-Cal application, but not necessarily prior to approval of eligibility. Subsection (B) states that Social Security Administration (SSA) district office notification must be viewed as confirmation that the person has applied for a SSN or evidence for a SSN. This documentation is usually either a copy of a SS-5 Application for a Social Security Card or MC 194 referral form annotated by a SSA official to indicate that a completed form has been submitted. The EW must, at the very least, document in file the fact that such a verification was viewed and appeared to be genuine. It is preferable, however, that such verification be photocopied for the file.

NEWBORNS

An infant born to a woman who is eligible for and is receiving Medi-Cal in the month of delivery, regardless of which program she is eligible for, will automatically be eligible for Medi-Cal even if the mother has not obtained a SSN for the infant, once the mother contacts the eligibility worker (EW) to report the birth of the newborn (who is a United States citizen). The EW must inform the mother that a SSN will be required for the infant by the age of one year. In the interim, a pseudo SSN will be assigned to the newborn. If the mother provides the infant's SSN prior to one year of age, the infant's real SSN should be recorded and used.

Federal regulations regarding application for SSN (Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 422.103) were amended in 1990. At the parent's option, federal regulations now provide a new procedure for the parent to request a SSN at the time that hospital personnel is obtaining information for birth registration. SSA revised the form SSA-2853-OP3, "MESSAGE FROM SOCIAL SECURITY", for use as evidence of SSN application when signed by a hospital official.

A woman not on Medi-Cal, but applying for Medi-Cal benefits for her newborn, must provide required documentation of the infant's eligibility and is required to supply a SSN or evidence that an application has been made for a SSN for the newborn.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ana Ramirez of my staff at (916) 657-1401. Any questions regarding the Continued Eligibility program, should be directed to Ms. Lisa Reagan at (916) 657-3719.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
GLENDA ARELLANO for

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch