STATE OF CALIFORNIA — HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916/445-1912

January 22, 1979

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 79-2

PHOTOCOPYING GOVERNMENT CHECKS

The Department's legal staff has advised us that it is illegal to photocopy checks issued by the United States Government. As a result, eligibility staff should not advise applicants or beneficiaries that a photocopy of a Social Security check or a Veteran Administration's check is an acceptable method of verification.

If an applicant or beneficiary (1) does not have an award letter verifying the current benefit amount; (2) does not have statements from checking, savings, or trust fund accounts which indicate that the income is directly deposited; and (3) cannot bring the check into the office within 60 days of the application or the onset of the benefit, the county must attempt to obtain third party verification from the appropriate government agency. Until verification is received, or if it cannot be obtained, the statement of the person completing the Statement of Facts may be used as verification. In this case, the person should be advised that verification will be required when the amount of income received changes.

If verification, other than verification by statement, has been obtained at time of application or onset of the benefit, the statement of the person who signed the Statement of Facts may be accepted as necessary verification of changes in the amount of benefit.

The Department realizes that these procedures are more cumbersome than obtaining a photocopy; however, we cannot authorize or recommend a procedure which is known to be illegal.

We are in the process of amending California Administrative Code, Title 22 regulations regarding acceptable verification. Until the amendments are filed, the instructions in this letter should be followed.

If you have any questions, contact your Medi-Cal field representative at 916/445-1912.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief
Eligibility Branch
Medical Care Standards Division

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Field Representatives

Expiration Date: June 29, 1979