STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

May 12, 1983

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 83-34

OBTAINING NEW SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS (SSAN) FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

It has been brought to our attention that because Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) identifies and tracks beneficiaries by SSAN, there is a problem when a previously eligible child (aid code 04) is adopted and the adopted child remains Medi-Cal eligible. Some MEDS counties are assigning a pseudo SSAN to the adopted child's case to prevent tracking in MEDS and maintain confidentiality of the child's previous eligibility information.

Assigning of a pseudo SSAN has created a State Quality Control procedural error. This problem was discussed with Department of Health Services Quality Control staff and it was agreed that in order to maintain the confidentiality of the adopted child's previous eligibility history, a procedural error will no longer be reported for aid code 04 children if the only error was the lack of an SSAN or a pseudo SSAN. Therefore counties may continue to issue pseudo SSANs to aid code 04 children.

In addition, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has a procedure whereby a new SSAN can be assigned to the adopted child. This will allow the county to assign a new MEDS ID and will eliminate the potential for tracking the beneficiary in that system and identifying the individual on MEDS with a pseudo MEDS ID.

If the child will be receiving a new SSAN, an SS-5 (application for SSN) is required by SSA. Either the child or adoptive parents may apply for the number.

The county may request that the child or parents apply for a new number. If they choose to apply, the county should prepare an MC 194 (Social Security Administration Referral Notice) and give it to the applicant to present to SSA when applying for the new SSN. The MC 194 will insure that the SSAN information is returned to the State for posting to the SSAN Verification file and MEDS.

In the comments section of the MC 194, the county should indicate the following:

> "Please issue an SSAN for this individual based upon RM 00205.015,3.d."

If the child or adoptive parents do not wish to apply for a new SSN, the county may use a pseudo SSN for the MEDS ID. Eligibility for Medi-Cal benefits shall not be affected if the child or parents do not wish to obtain a new SSN.

Should you have any questions regarding these procedures, please contact Karla Gurley of my staff at (916) 445-1912.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jo Ann Wray
Acting Deputy Director
Health Care Policy and
Standards Division

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisions
MEDS Liaisons