

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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January 20, 1993

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 93-04

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (RMA) PROGRAM

REFERENCES: EMC2 DHS #92178

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in its ORR State Letter No. 92-41 has notified all Refugee State Coordinators that the programs of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) will not be terminated January 31, 1993, as proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

The reason for this delay is that Evergreen Legal Services in the State of Washington filed suit in Federal District Court in Seattle. As the plaintiff, Evergreen asserted that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has not complied with the notice and planning requirements both in existing statute and specifically directed for the implementation of the Private Resettlement Program (PRP).

The preliminary hearing on the suit was held on December 22, 1992. Judge William Dwyer has issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) prohibiting the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) from implementing the PRP or terminating Refugee Cash Assistance/Refugee Medical Assistance (RCA/RMA). The TRO was in effect until December 31, 1992. Briefs by all participating parties and a summary plan for desired actions were due to the Court by December 29, 1992. A hearing on this issue is expected to take place on January 8, 1993.

We will continue to keep you informed on the outcome of the lawsuit and its effect on the programs. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Lara at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure