STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
14/744 P STREET
P.O. BOX 942732
SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-2941

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Letter No.: 95-28

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System Coordinators

PROPERTY WAIVER PROCEDURES

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of a change in policy regarding verification of property for low-income pregnant women. As you know, effective September 1, 1994, counties were instructed to implement the Property Waiver program (previously known as the Asset Waiver program) for all otherwise eligible pregnant women and infants up to one year of age with income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). As a result, this new group of pregnant women and infants are now covered by the Income Disregard program.

Under current procedures, if a pregnant woman's net nonexempt family income is at or below 200 percent of the FPL, and she is otherwise eligible but has property over the Medi-Cal property limit, she can still be eligible for Medi-Cal. The pregnant woman is advised that, although her property exceeds the regular Medi-Cal program limit, she is eligible for Medi-Cal for pregnancy-related services only under the Income Disregard program. However, if the pregnant woman also wants full-scope benefits for herself and/or the rest of her family, she must reduce her family property to below the property limit in order to establish regular Medi-Cal eligibility.

Currently, the Property Waiver procedures instruct counties to gather the customary information on property using the MC 210 (Statement of Facts), supplemental forms (if needed), and appropriate documentation. Then, if it is determined that the pregnant woman is otherwise eligible for the Income Disregard program, but her property is over the Medi-Cal limit, the county informs her she is not eligible for regular Medi-Cal benefits, but she is eligible for pregnancy-related services under the Property Waiver provision.

However, it has been brought to our attention that the Property Waiver legislation did not only intend to remove the Medi-Cal property limit for pregnant women and infants, but also to streamline the eligibility determination process itself, thus easing access to Medi-Cal. With this in mind, and in line with the Department's ongoing efforts to streamline eligibility, the Medi-Cal procedures will be revised regarding property verification for pregnant women (seeking pregnancy-related services only) and infants who are eligible for Property Waiver. Effective July 1, 1995, the need to obtain verification of specified pregnant women's property will depend on the coverage requested. During the face-to-face interview, if it is determined that the applicant is only requesting pregnancy-related services (or full-scope services for an infant), and the county has determined that the family income is at or below 200 percent FPL, the county shall not require verification of any property noted on the MC 210. In addition, the applicant will not be required to complete any supplemental property forms. Similarly, if the applicant has other real property and would be over the property limit even if utilization requirement was met, the applicant does not

need to submit proof of utilization. However, if a pregnant woman requests full-scope services for herself and/or has other family members requesting Medi-Cal, she will still need to provide verification of property. In line with this new procedure, the MC 210 Cover Sheet will be amended to inform a pregnant applicant that, if she is only requesting pregnancy-related services, she may not have to provide proof of property.

Counties will be sent revised procedures reflecting this change in policy, but this new practice should begin July 1, 1995. The revisions to the MC 210 Cover Sheet are in process and counties will be notified when the new form is available. If you have any questions regarding this change in policy, or regarding the Property Waiver program, please contact Ms. Lisa Reagan of my staff at (916) 657-3719.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch