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Director

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**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

October 7, 2004

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

Letter No.: 04-29

SUBJECT: THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO  
KIDS FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM  
(Reference: The California Department of Social Services All County Letter  
No. 03-52)

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Family Reunification (FR) program. FR cases are CalWORKs cases in which the children have been removed from the home and placed in out-of-home care by the county child welfare services agency and are considered temporarily absent from the Assistance Unit (AU) while their parents are receiving reunification services. The CalWORKs services provided are those that the county child welfare services agency determines to be necessary to reunite parents with their child/children and are specified in the reunification plan. Reunification parents shall not receive a cash grant or automatic Section 1931(b) cash-based Medi-Cal, but are eligible to receive CalWORKs services that are necessary for FR.

Background and Benefits

Assembly Bill 429, Chapter 111, Statutes of 2001, allows continuation of CalWORKs services for the parent(s) of children who have been removed from the home by Child Welfare Services if the county determines the services are necessary for FR. These CalWORKs funded services are part of an FR plan established by the county and may continue for 180 days. These services may be extended beyond 180 days for good cause until services are terminated by the court or the parent reaches the CalWORKs time limit. The services provided would be welfare-to-work activities, including mental health and substance abuse treatment or any other activities allowable under CalWORKs including supportive services.

### Aid Codes and Definitions

**4P CalWORKs FR - All Families.** Provides for continuance of CalWORKs services (no cash aid) to all families except two-parent families when the only eligible child or all eligible children have been removed from the home and are receiving out-of-home care, and the county has determined that provision of CalWORKs services is necessary for reunification.

**4R CalWORKs FR - Two Parent.** Provides for continuance of CalWORKs services (no cash aid) to two-parent families when the only eligible child or all eligible children have been removed from the home and are receiving out-of-home care, and the county has determined that provision of CalWORKs services is necessary for family reunification.

NOTE: Neither 4P or 4R provides Medi-Cal coverage.

### Eligibility for Other Aid Codes

When the parent is terminated from the CalWORKs cash aid code such as aid code 30 and placed in 4P or 4R, the Medi-Cal eligibility worker will reevaluate the case to determine whether the parent's Medi-Cal will continue under another Medi-Cal Only aid code. Since the children of the parents have been removed from the home and are not considered temporarily absent by the Medi-Cal program based on information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the parents are not eligible for the Section 1931(b) or Medically Needy programs. If the parent is pregnant, disabled, or meets some other criteria, the county may grant Medi-Cal benefits under that Medi-Cal aid code. The Medi-Cal aid code will be the primary aid code and the FR aid code is secondary. FR Parents may also be eligible for other aid codes such as General Assistance, Food Stamps or County Medical Services.

### Effective Date

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) changes were made to accept these aid codes beginning in September 2003. These aid codes are effective as of October 2001 and may be reported retroactively to MEDS for any month beginning on or after October 2001.

If you have any questions regarding Medi-Cal eligibility for persons in the FP program, please contact John McDaniel at (916) 552-9481.

Original signed by

Tameron Mitchell, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch