



California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

August 29, 2005

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 05-28  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY PICKLE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL CHANGES DUE TO A PROPERTY CHANGE IN THE  
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties of a change in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) regulations. This change revises the definitions of household goods and personal effects, eliminates the \$500 SSI resource limit for items of unusual value, and excludes all household goods and personal effects from resources, regardless of their dollar value. These changes are effective April 1, 2005, and apply to the Medi-Cal programs using SSI property rules.

Medi-Cal programs that use SSI property rules are:

- Pickle;
- Disabled Adult Child;
- Disabled Widow(er); and
- 250 Percent Working Disabled Program

The new household goods and personal effects definitions are as follows:

- Household Goods are: Items of personal property, found in or near the home, that are used on a regular basis; and Items needed by the householder for maintenance, use and occupancy of the premises as a home (e.g., furniture,

appliances, electronic equipment, such as, personal computers and television sets, carpets, cooking and eating utensils, and dishes.

- Personal Effects are items of personal property ordinarily worn or carried by the individuals and articles otherwise having an intimate relation to the individual (e.g., clothing, personal jewelry, including wedding and engagement rings, books, musical instruments, items of cultural or religious significance to the individuals, prosthetic devices, and wheelchairs).

Items acquired or held because of their value or as an investment are not considered household goods or personal effects for purposes of this exclusion.

Erroneous Notices of Action must be rescinded as counties become aware of cases that were erroneously denied, discontinued or where benefits have been reduced as a result in the delay in implementing the exemption. Eligibility and benefits must then be restored as otherwise eligible.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cecilia Kelley at (916) 552-9485 or e-mail [Ckelley@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:Ckelley@dhs.ca.gov).

Original signed by

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