

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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January 7, 1991

Letter No.: 90-111

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURES WHEN AN ALIEN PRESENTS DOCUMENTS
CONTAINING INCONSISTENT BIRTHDATES

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the procedure to follow when alien applicants/beneficiaries present Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) documentation containing discrepant birthdates.

Background

In most cases, inconsistent birthdates result from INS changing a birthdate at the alien's request without first validating their documentation. SSA will not change an alien's birthdate on their records without valid documentation to support the claim. SSA maintains that a majority of aliens request a birthdate change to make themselves older and thus eligible for benefits.

Procedure

In cases where age is not a factor of eligibility and the alien presents both INS and SSA documents which show two different birthdates, counties are to use the date of birth recorded on SSA documents. The eligibility workers (EWs) should then inform alien applicants/beneficiaries to reconcile the birthdate discrepancies with INS and SSA.

If age is the alien's only linkage with Medi-Cal, the eligibility worker should inform the applicant that he/she must clear up the birthdate inconsistency with the appropriate agency or the application will be denied.

Inconsistent birthdates have no effect on the primary verification process through SAVE. The birthdate is not a necessary data element in primary verifications since only the alien verifications number is required.

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However, inconsistent birthdates could lengthen the secondary verification process if the G-845 form does not have the primary verification Batch Control Number written on the form, or if the photo copy of the INS documentation (with photographs and birthdate) is not attached to the backside of the G-845 form. To assist INS with the timely processing of the secondary verification paperwork, the eligibility worker should specify on the G-845 form that a birthdate discrepancy needs to be clarified because the alien has one birthdate recorded with SSA, and another birthdate recorded through INS.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Mary Maestas-Sandoval of my staff at (916) 327-7155.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: All County Medi-Cal Liaisons
All County Program Consultants