

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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December 30, 1997



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

Letter No.: 97-67

**PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS WHO ARE BORN WITH  
SPINA BIFIDA**

Ref.: Public Law 104-204

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform counties regarding Public Law (P.L.) 104-204, dated September 26, 1996. P.L. 104-204 requires that allowances paid under this law to children of Vietnam Veterans who are born with spina bifida be considered exempt income and property in determining eligibility for any federal or federally assisted program. The statute provides for monthly allowances, based on the degree of disability suffered by the child.

The effective date of the monetary allowances will be October 1, 1997. Therefore, beginning with the month of October, such allowances are to be treated as exempt property beginning with the month following the month of receipt.

For share-of-cost (SOC) computations in new cases, counties will begin exempting these spina bifida payments no later than January 1, 1998. For SOC computations in continuing cases, commencing no later than January 1, 1998, counties will exempt these spina bifida payments as they become aware of such payments.

Questions regarding spina bifida property exemptions should be directed to Kathy Harwell at (916) 657-0146 or Sharyl Shanen-Raya at (916) 657-2942. Questions regarding spina bifida income exemptions should be directed to Dave Rappolee at (916) 657-0163.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch