STATE OF CALIFORNIA–HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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May 3, 1996

Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information No.: I-96-12

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

"CHILDREN COUNT" BROCHURE

This is to inform county welfare departments of the availability of a new brochure entitled "Children Count."

The brochure outlines new laws affecting Medi-Cal eligible children who have a noncustodial parent providing them with court ordered private health insurance (medical support). We are asking that county welfare departments make the brochure available to all parties involved in medical support situations. This brochure is also being made available for distribution at county District Attorney offices. Enclosed is a sample copy of the brochure which is available in both an English and Spanish version.

Brochures may be ordered by submitting a DHS 2031 "Order Form" to the Department of Health Services' (DHS) warehouse. If you have any questions regarding the ordering process, you may contact Norma Cline at the DHS warehouse at (916) 928-9217.

Questions regarding the brochure itself may be directed to Margaret Hoffeditz of the Department's Health Insurance Section at (916) 323-5243.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

Know Your Rights Regarding Medical Support

SANDRA SMOLEY, RN
SECRETARY
HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

S. KIMBERLY BELSHE
DIRECTOR
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THIRD PARTY LIABILITY BRANCH
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California
Department of
Health Services

Children Count

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There are new laws regarding medical care for children who are eligible for **Medi-Cal**. These laws affect children who have an absent parent who is under court or administrative order to provide the child(ren) with private health insurance. An absent parent is a parent who does not live with or have custody of his/her child(ren).

As of July 9, 1994, these new federal and state laws require health insurers and employers to do the following:

1 **Enroll a child under the health insurance of the absent parent** even if:

- the child was born out of wedlock; or
- the child is not being claimed as a dependent on the absent parent's Federal income tax return; or
- the child does not live with the parent or in the insurance service area.

2 **Let the absent parent enroll the child at any time.** If the absent parent does not enroll the child, then the other parent or the District Attorney may enroll the child under the absent parent's insurance.

3 **Not cancel the child's health insurance coverage** unless:

- the court order is no longer in effect; or
- the child is covered by other health insurance; or
- the employer has cancelled family health insurance for all of its employees.

4 **If you are a custodial parent or guardian of a child who has health insurance being provided by an absent parent, insurers must** now:

- give you any information on how to use the insurance; and
- let you submit claims for services without the approval of the absent parent; and
- pay you directly for any covered services which you paid for.

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Medi-Cal and private health insurance work together!

- Private health insurance may pay for some services Medi-Cal does not cover.
- Private health insurance may allow you to choose among more doctors and other providers.
- Often, private health insurance copayments, coinsurance, and deductible amounts will be paid by the Medi-Cal program.
- Private health insurance makes the Medi-Cal budget go further.

If you feel that an insurance carrier or an employer is violating any of these new laws, you may contact your local county District Attorney (Family Support Office) or the California Department of Health Services Health Insurance Section at 1 (800) 952-5294.