

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



December 30, 2009

CSSIN LETTER: 09-11

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
 ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

<u>Reason for this Transmittal</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> State Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Court Order or Settlement Change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarification requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated by DCSS

**SUBJECT: PATERNITY ONLY AND PATERNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
 DECLARATIONS**

The purpose of this communication is to clarify how local child support agencies (LCSAs) should respond when IV-A referrals for paternity-only are received.

Policy has been asked if opening a paternity-only case solely for the purpose of linking a Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) voluntary paternity declaration counts toward paternity establishment on the 1257. Some LCSAs believe that opening a paternity-only case referred from IV-A is worthwhile if there is an existing POP declaration to link to the dependent.

When a paternity-only IV-A referral is received, and a filed POP declaration exists, paternity is considered established and is not at issue. The LCSA should notify the IV-A agency that paternity has already been established, based on the filed POP declaration. Opening a case solely for the purpose of linking the POP declaration does not count towards paternity establishment on a county's performance statistics.

If a paternity-only IV-A referral is received and a filed POP declaration does not exist, the LCSA should open a case, establish paternity (via POP declaration or judicially) and close the case. In this instance, paternity establishment would be counted on performance statistics.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Cindi Pocaroba at (916) 464-5883.

Sincerely,

/os/

BILL OTTERBECK
 Deputy Director