

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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



December 26, 2003

CSSIN LETTER: 03-21

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

SUBJECT: FEDERAL RULE CHANGES ON FEDERAL INCOME TAX REFUND OFFSETS

This is to inform local child support agencies (LCSAs) that federal rule changes for 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 303 have been completed. The changes were effective as of June 26, 2003.

The changes affect the processing of cases for federal income tax refund offsets. The rule changes required some process and programming changes in the Integrated Database (IDB). The IDB changes were completed and in place as of November 17, 2003.

The Rule removes the requirement that child support obligations be 90 days delinquent before referring the case for federal income tax refund offset. The IDB no longer holds the new case 45 days before sending it to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) for collection. The IDB will now forward the new case to OCSE as soon as the Annual Child Support Warning Notice is mailed to the non-custodial parent (NCP). This change may favorably affect collections especially during tax season.

The Rule change also requires that an Annual Notice be sent to each obligor when a different case type is added to an already existing case type on IDB. For example, an (NCP) will receive a Notice when the TANF case is added to IDB. Subsequently, if a Non-TANF case is added to IDB, a second Notice will be sent to the NCP. This change may increase NCP contacts with the LCSAs.

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

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If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Tanya Morales at (916) 464-5261 or Jadine Takeuchi at (916) 464-5376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan M. Obert".

JOAN M. OBERT
Deputy Director
Technology Services Division

cc: All Intercept Coordinators
Accounting Supervisors