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Director

## County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services

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### NOTICE TO RELATIVE CAREGIVERS RE: FUNDING OPTIONS FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS (Please Read Carefully)

This letter is to inform you of a change in law that directly impacts requirements for Foster Care funding, which changed the way the Department of Children and Family (DCFS) does business. Relative Caregivers homes must, among other things, meet the same licensing standards as regular foster parent homes. In addition, it is important that Relative Caregivers who are in need of financial assistance for children placed in their homes while awaiting an assessment and approval by a Kinship CSW, be aware of the following:

- In order to be eligible to receive federal funds through the Foster Care Program, there are specific criteria, which must be met. In addition to other Title IV-E requirements, under existing law, a caregiver is entitled to receive AFDC-Foster Care funds only if his/her home is approved by DCFS.
- If the home is approved, the payment date will reflect the date of the Kinship approval, and **cannot be retroactively dated** to the date of placement.
- The date of the approval for the home is determined by the Kinship CSW and **cannot** be determined by the case-carrying CSW.
- Caregivers who are related within the 5<sup>th</sup> degree who are in need of immediate financial assistance should immediately apply for "CalWORKS" benefits at their nearest Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) office. The DCFS Eligibility Worker can help you with this process by providing you with a copy of the documents that DPSS will need such as: 1) A copy of the SAWS 1 application for Foster Care benefits that was completed when the child was placed in your home 2) Social Security card or birth certificate for the children, 3) Any other document on file that will help you establish relationship. Ask the DCFS Eligibility Worker if you have questions about relationship within the 5<sup>th</sup> degree. You can find the nearest DPSS offices to you by calling 1-877-481-1044.
- Caregiver's homes must also be re-approved every twelve (12) months. This means, if your home is not re-approved, there may be an interruption in Foster Care funding and you should immediately (re)apply for CalWORKS at your nearest DPSS office.
- If you move or additional household members assume residence in your home, you must notify the child's CSW immediately so an updated relative assessment can be completed. Failure to notify the CSW of these critical changes to your household and/or composition can interrupt the placement funding until an updated assessment is completed and approval is granted.

The CSW has explained and discussed the facts as described above, and I understand my rights and options.

CSW: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Oldest child's name \_\_\_\_\_ State Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_