

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 18-24

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GIVING A FOSTER CHILD'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO THE CHILD'S CAREGIVER

This FYI informs staff that at the time a child, or nonminor dependent, is placed with a caregiver, the caregiver should be given the child's, or nonminor's, social security number, if available. If the caregiver subsequently requests the social security number, the request should be accommodated as well and no court order is required.

Background

When a caregiver requests a child's social security number it has been practice and policy to only provide that number once a court order was obtained granting access. This often happens during tax season because in certain instances a foster child may be a "qualifying child" for purposes of a caregiver's tax return. However, that practice is too restrictive. Welfare and Institutions Code section 16503.5(d) requires that DCFS provide a caregiver placement agreement with the child's or nonminor's social security number, if available, to a child's, or nonminor dependent's, caregiver **at the time of placement.**

Release of Foster Child & Nonminor Dependent Social Security Numbers

In light of existing law, effective immediately, a DCFS worker should provide the foster caregiver with the foster child's, or nonminor dependent's, social security number at the time of placement, if the number is available. The child's social security number will be generated on the DCFS 129, SOC 154A and SOC 156 as long as the information is on CWS/CMS. When creating the forms, be sure to select from County forms, not CDSS. If the caregiver contacts the DCFS worker at a later date and asks for the social security number, the number should be provided, if available.

Whenever such a request is made, DCFS workers should remind the caregiver of the sensitive nature of the social security number and the importance of keeping it confidential and only disseminating it to the extent appropriate.

This dedicated email address has been created where foster parents may direct social security number-related inquiries: SSNInquiries@dcfs.lacounty.gov. Feel free to share it with caregivers.

NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS IN COURT REPORTS



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

(right click to open footer section and access link)