

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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



October 25, 2005

CSS LETTER: 05-31

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

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT
 ENFORCEMENT (OCSE) ANNUAL DATA REPORT (OCSE 157)

The purpose of this letter is to inform local child support agencies (LCSA) of the impending changes to Office of Child Support Enforcement Annual Data Report (OCSE 157). Although most of the changes will be deferred until Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009, five of these changes became effective October 1, 2005, and must be reported on the FFY 2006 OCSE 157 annual report due October 30, 2006. The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is working with the consortia systems to determine the most effective way to meet the new reporting requirements.

The five new or modified data lines effective October 1, 2005, that must be included on the FFY 2006 OCSE 157 report due October 30, 2006, are:

1. Line 2e - Arrears-Only IV-D Cases with Orders Established Open at the End of the Fiscal Year.

Report the number of IV-D arrears-only cases open on the last day of the fiscal year. Include cases for which there is no current support assigned to the state or owed to the family. Do not include judgments under state law that create a debt owed to the state by the noncustodial parent (NCP) for public assistance paid for that parent's child(ren) (laws of general obligation). These cases are a subset of and should have been counted on Line 2.

Definition of an Arrears-Only IV-D Case – A IV-D case in which the only reason the case is open is to collect child or medical support arrearages owed to the state or to the family.

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

2. Line 5a - Children in IV-D Cases Open at the End of the Prior Federal Fiscal Year Who Were Born Out-of-Wedlock.

Report the number of children in the IV-D caseload in cases open at the end of prior federal fiscal year who were born out-of-wedlock. *Report the information for the prior reporting fiscal year.*

Note: This number is taken from line 5 of the prior month/year report. DCSS will populate this data field.

3. Line 8a - Children in the State Born Out-of-Wedlock During the Prior Year.

Report the total number of children in the state who were born out-of-wedlock during the prior reporting year. *Report the information for the prior reporting year. This may include children born out-of-wedlock in another state who are living in the reporting state.*

Note: DCSS obtains this data from the Office of Vital Records and will populate this data field.

4. Line 21 - Cases Open at the End of the Fiscal Year In Which Medical Support is Ordered.

Report the number of IV-D cases open on the last day of the fiscal year for which medical support is ordered. This includes cash medical support amounts and/or health insurance coverage. Include IV-D cases where the custodial parent (CP), NCP or any other person is ordered to provide the medical support. Do not include arrears-only cases on this line.

5. Line 21a - Cases Open at the End of the Fiscal Year In Which Medical Support is Ordered and Provided.

Report the number of IV-D cases open on the last day of the fiscal year for which medical support was ordered and provided at any time during the fiscal year. This includes cash medical support payments and/or health insurance coverage. Include cases where the CP, NCP, or any other person, such as a step-parent, actually provided the medical support. Cases reported on this line are a subset of and must be counted on Line 21.

If private health insurance is ordered, counties cannot include cash medical support payments, unless it is documented that private health insurance is not available to the NCP at a reasonable cost.

Publicly-funded health insurance is included only if there is documentation that private health insurance coverage is unavailable at a reasonable cost and a parent is ordered by a court or administrative process to provide a cash medical

support payment to help pay the cost of Medi-Cal or State Child Health Insurance Program (Healthy Families). Cases reported on Line 21a are a subset of and must be reported on Line 21.

The remaining 12 proposed new data lines (also to be included in the monthly CS 1257 report) will not be required to be provided until FFY 2009 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009), with a due date for the completed OCSE 157 including all the new data lines, of October 31, 2009. DCSS is currently revising the CS 1257 monthly report and instructions to incorporate all the new federal reporting changes and clarifications. DCSS will work closely with the consortia to ensure a clear understanding of the new reporting requirements, as well as any potential re-programming costs related to these changes, so California may begin collecting these data in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these proposed changes, please contact Doug Rose at (916) 465-4887 or Douglas.Rose@dcss.ca.gov; or Helen Faust at (916) 464-5809 or Helen.Faust@dcss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

s/SANDRA O. POOLE

SANDRA O. POOLE
Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division