

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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



April 25, 2002

LCSA LETTER: 02-05

ALL IV-D Directors

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF PATERNITY (CS909) – GREEN COPIES

The purpose of this letter is to ensure statewide uniformity in the use of the Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) database of filed Declarations of Paternity. The database is issued monthly by the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) on a CD-ROM and is the official record of California's filed Declarations of Paternity.

It has come to our attention that some Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs) are inputting information directly from the green copies of the Declaration of Paternity for paternity establishment and for locate information. The green copies sent to LCSAs by hospitals are **strictly for invoicing purposes only**. LCSAs shall not use the green copies as a method for establishing paternity or as a means to input data into the POP database.

California Family Code Section 7573 states, "a completed voluntary Declaration of Paternity that has been filed with DCSS shall establish the paternity of a child and shall have the same force and effect as a judgment for paternity issued by a court of competent jurisdiction." Therefore, information from green copies of the Declaration of Paternity should never be used to enter information into the POP database, as paternity is not established until the Declaration of Paternity has been filed with DCSS. Establishing paternity from a green copy of the Declaration of Paternity could result in erroneous data reporting and legal ramifications especially if DCSS has rejected the original declaration.

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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To assist counties in complying with state law and federal regulations, DCSS began monthly distribution of the POP CD-ROM in September 2001. The CD-ROM index should be used to verify legal paternity established by DCSS.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your State POP Analyst .

Sincerely,

PATRIC B. ASHBY
Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division

cc All IV-D Paternity Opportunity Program Coordinators