



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- State Law Change
- Court Order
- Initiated by CDSS
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties

December 06, 2011

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 11-83

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY SFIS COORDINATORS  
 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT CHIEFS  
 ALL CalFresh COORDINATORS  
 ALL CaWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
 ALL SAWS CONSORTIA PROJECT DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: DISCONTINUANCE OF THE STATEWIDE FINGERPRINT IMAGING SYSTEM (SFIS) REQUIREMENT FOR THE CALFRESH PROGRAM

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 10830; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTIONS 63-300.451, 63-505.14, 63-601.12, 63-601.13, and 63-601.14; Assembly Bill (AB) 6 (Chapter 501, Statutes of 2011)

The purpose of this letter is to inform all counties that the use of the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) as a requirement for issuing CalFresh benefits shall be discontinued effective January 1, 2012.

Current state statute and regulations regarding the use of SFIS as a condition of benefit issuance for CalFresh remain in effect through December 31, 2011. AB 6 (Chapter 501, Statutes of 2011) becomes effective January 1, 2012, and amends Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10830 by repealing the requirement that CalFresh applicants be fingerprinted and photo imaged as a condition of benefit issuance.

Counties will continue to fingerprint and photo image applicants of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CaWORKs) program for the purposes of determining eligibility for that program only, including any case where the applicant receives benefits from both the CaWORKs and CalFresh programs. However, under no circumstances shall a CalFresh household's benefits be delayed or denied due to a lack of finger image or photo, including CalFresh households receiving or applying for cash aid. If cash aid eligibility cannot be determined due to a lack of completion of SFIS requirements, this shall not negatively impact or hinder the determination of CalFresh eligibility and subsequent benefit issuance as appropriate. This policy change does not impact counties' ability to use SFIS for their General Assistance/General Relief population for determination of eligibility for that program.

The elimination of SFIS shall go into effect on January 1, 2012, for CalFresh applicants and for CalFresh recipients whose fingerprints otherwise would be collected at recertification that would occur after December 31, 2011. However, because current program rules allow SFIS requirements to be postponed for new applicants who do not have an in-office interview (MPP 63-300.451), it is possible that someone applying prior to January 1, 2012 may not be subject to SFIS, unless their recertification is scheduled before January 1, 2012. Any households whose SFIS requirements have been postponed and have a recertification on or after January 1, 2012 are no longer subject to the SFIS requirements.

CDSS will be revising regulations, forms, and publications in response to these changes in the SFIS requirements, which will be distributed under separate cover. Questions regarding the upcoming CalFresh regulation and form changes can be directed to the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Suzie Steinwert, Manager, Fraud Bureau Policy Unit, at (916) 653-1826, or by email at [suzanne.steinwert@dss.ca.gov](mailto:suzanne.steinwert@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division