State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services

California Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

August 29, 2005

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY PICKLE COORDINATORS

Letter No.: 05-28

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL CHANGES DUE TO A PROPERTY CHANGE IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties of a change in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) regulations. This change revises the definitions of household goods and personal effects, eliminates the $500 SSI resource limit for items of unusual value, and excludes all household goods and personal effects from resources, regardless of their dollar value. These changes are effective April 1, 2005, and apply to the Medi-Cal programs using SSI property rules.

Medi-Cal programs that use SSI property rules are:

- Pickle;
- Disabled Adult Child;
- Disabled Widow(er); and
- 250 Percent Working Disabled Program

The new household goods and personal effects definitions are as follows:

- Household Goods are: Items of personal property, found in or near the home, that are used on a regular basis; and Items needed by the householder for maintenance, use and occupancy of the premises as a home (e.g., furniture,

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appliances, electronic equipment, such as, personal computers and television sets, carpets, cooking and eating utensils, and dishes.

- Personal Effects are items of personal property ordinarily worn or carried by the individuals and articles otherwise having an intimate relation to the individual (e.g., clothing, personal jewelry, including wedding and engagement rings, books, musical instruments, items of cultural or religious significance to the individuals, prosthetic devices, and wheelchairs).

Items acquired or held because of their value or as an investment are not considered household goods or personal effects for purposes of this exclusion.

Erroneous Notices of Action must be rescinded as counties become aware of cases that were erroneously denied, discontinued or where benefits have been reduced as a result in the delay in implementing the exemption. Eligibility and benefits must then be restored as otherwise eligible.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cecilia Kelley at (916) 552-9485 or e-mail Ckelley@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

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Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch