

**Handbook**

For program staff in the child welfare agency, the County Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) has established a Statewide Intercounty Protocol to provide consistency and agreement with how to assess families who live out of county. This protocol may be found on the CWDA website at <http://www.cwda.org/childrens-services-0> and on the CDSS RFA website at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program>.

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- (b) A County that approves a Resource Family, or a County that agrees to be responsible for the approval and monitoring of a Resource Family pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (a), shall comply with the requirements applicable to a County as specified in the Written Directives.

**SECTION 4-08: Placement Prior to Approval**

- (a) A county welfare agency may place a child or nonminor dependent with a relative or NREFM on an emergency basis, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 309 or 361.45 and using the process described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 361.4 prior to Resource Family Approval.
- (b) A county welfare agency may place a child or nonminor dependent with an applicant prior to Resource Family Approval based on a compelling reason, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(e).
  - (1) A compelling reason may include, but is not limited to, the following:
    - (A) The unique needs of a child or nonminor dependent.
    - (B) The best interest of a child or nonminor dependent to maintain his or her family or family-like connections with an applicant.
- (c) Within five business days after a child or nonminor dependent is placed with a relative or NREFM pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 309, 361.45, or 16519.5(e), a county welfare agency shall:
  - (1) Discuss funding options available to a relative or NREFM prior to approval as a Resource Family.
  - (2) Provide a relative with a blank copy of form CW 2218 "Rights, Responsibilities and Other Important Information" and form CW 2219 "Application for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)" for all eligible children temporarily placed with the relative.

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A county welfare agency may assist a relative or a Resource Family applicant with a placement prior to approval with completing and submitting the CW 2219 to ensure timely receipt of funding. For more information regarding CalWORKs program for non- needy caretaker relatives, refer to All County Letter 16-45.

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