



TOBY DOUGLAS
Director

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

February 17, 2011

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 11-10
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: LYNCH V. RANK (PICKLE) – TICKLER SYSTEM
(RE: Pickle Handbook, Section 4, Pages 4-1 through 4-13)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform you that the Department of Health Care Services has mailed the Pickle Tickler Notices of Action (NOAs) the first week in January 2011, to individuals who:

- Currently receive Title II Retirement, Survivor's, and Disability Insurance Social Security benefits;
- Have been discontinued from Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment program since December 2005 (for any reason); or
- Were determined ineligible during the Pickle screening process.

A copy of the NOA (Notice Type 52) is enclosed.

Counties should have received their individual Pickle Tickler report the last week of December 2010. Additionally, pursuant to the *Lynch v. Rank* lawsuit, each potentially eligible Pickle individual must receive a Pickle Medi-Cal notice for three consecutive years. Therefore, the December 2010 Tickler report will now only list potential Pickle eligibles for years 2008, 2009, and 2010. Individuals listed during previous years will be dropped from the report. Henceforth, one year of ineligibles will be purged each year.

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In addition, the lawsuit requires that each of the individuals on the Pickle Ticker listing, who has an active Medi-Cal case or who brings the NOA into the county welfare department to apply under the Pickle amendment, shall have an eligibility determination completed in accordance with Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 50189. The eligibility determination shall take place within 30 days of the month preceding or following the Title II, Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA). Although the Social Security Administration has informed us that there will not be a 2011 Title II COLA, please complete eligibility determinations by April 29, 2011.

Please refer to Section 4, pages 4-1 through 4-13 of your Pickle Handbook for specific instructions on county responsibilities for completing Pickle determinations.

If you have any questions, please contact Harold Higgins by phone at (916) 552-9522 or by e-mail at Harold.Higgins@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original signed by:

René Mollow, MSN, RN, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Enclosure

State of California - Health and Human Services
Department of Health Services
Medical Assistance

NOTICE TYPE 52
NOTICE PREPARATION DATE:
OCTOBER 21, 1996

MEDI-CAL NOTICE

Lynch v. Rank Tickler Notice

PT00001

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XXXXXX XXXXX
XXXXXXXX XXXXXX FOR
4015 XXXXXX XXXXX
XXI XXXXX

94206

TO: Medi-Cal Beneficiaries Discontinued from SSI/SSP

RE: CONTINUED MEDI CAL BENEFITS

We have been told that you received Supplemental Security Income and/or State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP) benefits some time after April 1972. We have also been told that your benefits have stopped. If we are wrong and you have never received SSI/SSP, or you are now getting SSI/SSP benefits, please ignore this notice.

The purpose of this notice is to let you know that under a federal law called the Pickle amendment, Medi-Cal eligibility continues without a share of cost for certain individuals whose SSI/SSP benefits were stopped.

What does this mean to you? Because you once received SSI/SSP and are still on our list, you may be evaluated for Medi-Cal under the Pickle legislation. If eligible, you will receive Medi-Cal with no share of cost.

How do you apply? Call your local county welfare office within 30 days if you want your Medi-Cal eligibility determined under the Pickle Amendment. They will send you an application and/or make an appointment for you. Be sure to save this notice.

What if you already get Medi-Cal but have to pay a share of cost? Call your worker at your local welfare office and ask that your case be evaluated for "Pickle" eligibility.

What if you already get Medi-Cal and have no share of cost? Just ignore this notice unless you start to receive a share of cost.

What if you are now getting SSI/SSP benefits? You should ignore this notice. Persons who receive SSI/SSP automatically receive Medi-Cal at no share of cost.

If you have any questions about your Medi-Cal benefits as a Pickle eligible, you should contact the county welfare department for the county in which you live. To help you, we have listed below the address and telephone number of the county welfare department in your area.

Note: If you have already been in contact with the county welfare department regarding your Pickle status, please follow their instructions and ignore this notice.

CONTACT: