

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Office of the Secretary

September 26, 2001

Region IX
Office for Civil Rights
50 United Nations Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94102(415) 437-8310
TDD 437-8311
FAX 437-8329Chet P. Hewett, Director
Children and Family Services
Social Service Agency
401 Broadway
Oakland, California 94607

Reference: 09-99-7002

Dear Mr. Hewett:

On September 25, 2001, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), received the signed Resolution Agreement from the Social Service Agency, Children and Family Services (CFS). We have now endorsed the agreement, a copy of which is enclosed.

This review focused on whether CFS provides individuals the opportunity to become adoptive or foster parents without denials or delays based on the race or ethnicity of the prospective parent or the child involved. OCR conducted this review under its authority to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and implementing regulation, 45 CFR Part 80, and the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994, as amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (MEPA/IEP). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and MEPA/IEP prohibit discrimination in foster care and adoption placements on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

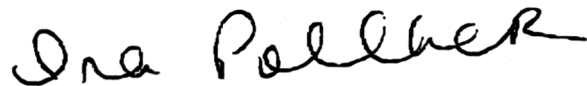
Based on the agreement, which requires CFS to amend procedures, revise forms, train staff, provide nondiscrimination notices, and track placements, OCR has closed the investigative phase of this review. Implementation of the actions in Section III of the agreement within the time frames specified will meet OCR's standards for resolution of the issues presented in this review. We will monitor the agreement until all of its terms are fulfilled. At that time, OCR will notify CFS that the issues in this review have been resolved.

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Thank you for your cooperation during this review. If you have any questions, you may telephone Marlo Sagatelian at (415) 437-8326 or me at 437-8310.

Sincerely,



Ira C. Pollack
Regional Manager

Enclosure

cc: Erika Shore, Division Director

Varghese Vengapally, Adoptions Program Manager

Sharon M. Fujii, Regional Administrator
Administration on Children and Families