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PROGRAM MEMO

TO: AREA AGENCIES ON AGING DIRECTORS LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS	NO.: PM 05-19 (P)
SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE GUIDELINES FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE	DATE ISSUED: December 15, 2005
REVISED	EXPIRES: Until Superseded
REFERENCES:	SUPERSEDES:
PROGRAMS AFFECTED: <input type="checkbox"/> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-B <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-C1/C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-D <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-E <input type="checkbox"/> Title V <input type="checkbox"/> CBSP <input type="checkbox"/> MSSP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title VII <input type="checkbox"/> ADHC <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
REASON FOR PROGRAM MEMO: <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Law or Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: <u>Compliance with OAA REQUIREMENT</u>	
INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Chisorom U. Okwuosa, Esq., Legal Services Developer (916) 419-7508	

The purpose of this Program Memorandum (PM) is to transmit for implementation, the *California Statewide Guidelines for Legal Assistance* (Guidelines) dated April 20-21 2005. The Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (OAA), designates legal assistance as a priority service under Title III B [42 USC §3026(a)(2)]. As such, the funding of legal assistance by each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is mandatory, and services must be accessible and available throughout each of the thirty-three Planning and Service Areas (PSAs) in California.

The California Department of Aging (CDA) developed these Guidelines, in conjunction with representatives from the AAAs, Legal Services Providers (LSPs), Ombudsman, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) and the California State Bar. They have undergone an extensive review and comment period. These final guidelines set forth roles and responsibilities of the LSPs, AAAs, and CDA. Their implementation will not only help to ensure California's compliance with the OAA, but will also promote a high quality, high impact legal assistance delivery system throughout the state that targets limited Title IIIB legal resources to those older Californians in greatest need of assistance.



These Guidelines are to be used as best practices by CDA, AAAs and LSPs in the contracting and monitoring processes for legal services.

((Original signed by Lora Connolly))

Lora Connolly
Acting Director

Attachment (AAA's / Legal Service Providers)