TO: Commissioners of Social Services Development
       Directors of Authorized Agencies
DATE: June 24, 1998

SUBJECT: Multiethnic/Interethnic Adoption Provisions

CONTACT PERSON: Any questions concerning this release should be directed
to the appropriate Regional Office of the Office of Family and Children
Services.

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ATTACHMENTS: Log No: ACYF-IM-CB-98-03 (not available on-line)

FILING REFERENCES

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DSS-329EL (Rev. 9/89)
The purpose of this release is to inform you that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has published an Information Memorandum on questions and answers related to the implementation of the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA), as amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provisions of The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. The attached DHHS Information Memorandum includes questions dealing primarily with whether public agencies can routinely consider race, color or national origin in any part of the foster care/adoption process, and in what context race, color or nation origin can be considered in individualized placement decisions.

Please note that the Office of Children and Family Services recently published release 98 INF-8, which summarizes the amendments to MEPA as provided by the Interethnic Adoption Provisions of The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 and the requirements for implementation of the changes in New York State.

William F. Baccaglini
Director
Strategic Planning
and Policy Development