

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATA BREACH OCCURS IN SAN DIEGO Drug Medi-Cal Recipients Named

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) today announced that an envelope containing the names and Social Security Numbers of 303 clients receiving Drug Medi-Cal services in San Diego was damaged while being processed within a San Diego post office.

ADP was notified of the event on April 3, 2007. The post office recovered paperwork containing the names of 120 individuals. Paperwork containing another 183 names is unaccounted for.

The paperwork, which is used to reconcile Drug Medi-Cal billings, was enroute to the San Diego County Alcohol and Drug Services office when it was damaged.

ADP has notified the 303 individuals of the security breach. In the meantime, ADP has stopped sending Drug Medi-Cal information through traditional mail channels and will use a more secure delivery system in the future.

Renée Zito, Director of ADP said, "We are particularly sensitive about the need to protect the privacy of clients. We take any breach of secure documents very seriously, and we will take steps to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Individuals can protect themselves from the possibility of identity theft by contacting the three credit reporting agencies - Experian (888-397-3742); Equifax (800-525-6285); and Trans Union (800-680-7289) - to place a fraud alert on their credit files. Individuals may also obtain one free copy of their credit report annually from the credit reporting agencies under federal law by calling (877) 322-8228.

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