

Capitol Report

Welfare pay delay blocked

By Thorne Gray
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U.S. District Judge Raul Ramirez announced Friday he will issue a preliminary injunction to keep the Deukmejian administration from delaying welfare payments to poor families with children.

Ramirez said he would give state officials 10 days to take his decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco before the injunction would take effect.

A deputy attorney general said an appeal is under consideration.

Gov. Deukmejian last July vetoed \$6.6 million from the current year's budget in anticipation of savings from emergency regulations that were imposed by the Department of Social Services last October.

The emergency regulations were quickly overturned in state court, but the department reinstated them on a non-emergency basis April 1, hoping to save \$2.5 million this budget year and \$9.9 million next fiscal year.

The savings would come from delaying the initial payments to recipients of Aid to Families with



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U.S. District Judge Raul Ramirez gave the state 10 days to appeal his decision.

Dependent Children as much as 30 days after the application was received.

Prior to April 1, payments began on the date of application or the first of the next month at the latest.

Kevin Aslanian, coordinator for the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, the plaintiff, accused the state of "manipulating the regulations to deny needy families and their children funds to buy food, pay their rent and meet ... other basic survival needs of their children."