

Metro/State

Suit challenges state's policy on AFDC

Welfare rights organizations filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday, challenging the state's procedures for restoring welfare to former AFDC recipients.

The suit, filed in Sacramento Superior Court, alleges the state Department of Social Services illegally forces former recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children to file a new application even if they have not been off the aid rolls one full year.

In 1984, the state amended regulations providing that new applicants would receive aid from the date the county determines they are eligible, rather than from the date of application, the suit said.

The processing takes about 20 days, according to Kevin Aslanian, executive director of the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

"This results in the state of California saving thousands of dollars while in many instances, AFDC-eligible individuals go without housing, food and money during this unauthorized waiting period," the lawsuit said.