

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE COURT

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CHIEF CLERK
BY [Signature] [Signature]
SANTA CLARA

STANDING ORDER REGARDING ACCESS OF JUVENILE DEPENDENCY
RECORDS TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PUBLIC DEFENDERS AND OTHER
DEFENSE COUNSEL WHO REPRESENT CHILDREN WHO WERE FORMERLY
DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY.

This order addresses the exchange of information between counsel for children in Juvenile Court delinquency proceedings, the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS), and the Juvenile Court

The County of Santa Clara is committed to providing effective legal services for children in both the Dependency and the Delinquency Court systems. In order to fulfill the obligations set forth in existing law -- including California Rule of Court 1479, civil and professional standards and constitutional mandates -- counsel for children in delinquency proceedings must have access to any and all relevant information about the child, including information contained in the DFCS file.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 and California Rule of Court 1423, the attorney for a child may inspect confidential juvenile case files without authorization from the Court if the attorney is "actively participating in a criminal or juvenile proceeding involving the minor


The Court finds that the interests of children appearing before the Juvenile Court are best served by having effective legal counsel who are well informed and have prompt access to relevant information about children they represent. In addition, the Court also finds that information sharing and collaboration among agencies charged with serving children and their interests will promote efficiency and ensure improved communication and service coordination for children. The Court, therefore, makes the following order

DFCS may provide copies of relevant documents to counsel for the child in a delinquency proceeding. These documents may include, but are not limited to, relevant portions of investigation notes or reports, progress notes, summaries, prior placements, medical and psychological evaluations and court reports.

Furthermore, pursuant to §27, counsel for the child in a delinquency proceeding shall be given access to any juvenile dependency records relating to the child which are held by the Juvenile Court Clerk, and shall have the right to obtain copies of such records. However, if the child has been adopted through the Dependency Court, counsel for the child is not entitled to access confidential information relating to the child's birth family without a court order

Copies of any and all records obtained by counsel for the child in a delinquency proceeding pursuant to this Standing Order shall not be disseminated by counsel for the child except as provided by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827 and California Rule of Court 1423

Dated: 7/14/06


Katherine Lucero
Supervising Judge
Juvenile Dependency Court