

FILED

MAY 19 2008

KIRI TORRE
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY *Jorgna* DEPUTY

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING SILICON VALLEY CHILDREN'S FUND, EDUCATION
INITIATIVE FOR FOSTER YOUTH RESEARCH TEAM, TO ACCESS
CONFIDENTIAL FOSTER CHILD EDUCATION INFORMATION**

The Court finds that the Silicon Valley Children's Fund (SVCF) is a local nonprofit, public benefit organization dedicated to developing and supporting model programs, projects and services for the abused, neglected and abandoned children who come to the Santa Clara County Children's Shelter and live in our community. Silicon Valley Children's Fund's many accomplishments are described in detail on its website at www.svcf.org. Santa Clara Valley Children's Fund works with the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) on many projects and initiatives for at-risk children.

The Court further finds that Silicon Valley Children's Fund recently developed a program called the Education Initiative for Foster Youth which is designed to help foster youth become more self-sustaining, successful adults by working to improve educational outcomes and access to education. The guiding principle is that education is the great "equalizer" that will empower foster youth with the tools to successfully transition to adulthood. The first step in the Education Initiative for Foster Youth will be to work with DFCS to collect and analyze data related to how foster youth in our community are faring academically.

The Court further finds that in order to perform this analysis, DFCS and SVCF have jointly requested an order authorizing DFCS to share with SVCF the names, addresses, dates of birth, gender, ethnicity, language classification, placement status and school of attendance for all school age foster children under the care of DFCS. They have further requested an order authorizing SVCF to inspect and copy the foster children's educational records, including, but not limited to: school placement, grade level, educational status and progress, grades, report cards, standardized test scores, school attendance, truancy, gifted/talented status, special education status, individualized education plans, and discipline actions. The research team will be led by Minh Ngo, Catherine Westerbeck, Laura Saunders, Sue Saso and Jennifer Mapa. From this research, SVCF will develop a report for DFCS, the Juvenile Court and the education community which will describe in aggregate the results of the research. The report will not identify individual foster children nor will the report connect any data to a specific foster child.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services may provide the Silicon Valley Children's Fund, Education Initiative for Foster Youth Research Team, with the names, addresses, dates of birth, gender, ethnicity, language classification, placement status and school of attendance of all school age foster youth under its care. Only members of the Research Team, under the supervision of Minh Ngo, Catherine Westerbeck, Laura Saunders, Sue Saso and Jennifer Mapa, are permitted to receive this information.
2. The Silicon Valley Children's Fund, Education Initiative for Foster Youth Research Team, may inspect and copy school records for foster youth under the supervision of the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services. These records shall include, but not be limited to, school placement, grade level, educational status and progress, grades, report cards, standardized test scores, school attendance, truancy, gifted/talented status, special education status, individualized education plans, and discipline actions. Only members of the Research Team, under the supervision of Minh Ngo, Catherine Westerbeck, Laura Saunders, Sue Saso and Jennifer Mapa, are permitted to access this information.
3. The Research Team shall be bound by the confidentiality provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code sections 827 and 10850 and any information received shall be used exclusively for the purposes described above.
4. The Research Team shall not publish, disseminate or otherwise disclose any identifying information pertaining to any dependent child of the court nor any placement of any dependent child of the court.
5. Upon completion of the research all child-specific documents and information shall be destroyed or returned to DFCS.

Date:

5/19/08



HONORABLE KATHERINE LUCERO
Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court