

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

FILED

JUN 16 2008

KIRI TORRE
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk
Superior Court of Santa Clara County of Santa Clara
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

**STANDING ORDER AUTHORIZING SOCIAL WORKERS
AND CAREGIVERS TO SIGN PERMISSION FORMS
FOR SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

THE COURT MAKES THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

1. The Legislature has declared that the rights of children in out-of-home placement should not be infringed upon, and that when a foster child's rights conflict with the health or safety of the child or others, counties and foster care providers should find a way to preserve the child's rights in a manner that maintains the health and safety of the child and others. (Stats. 2001, c. 683, s.1.)
2. The Legislature has further declared that it is the policy of the state that all children in foster care shall have the right, among other things, to: attend religious services and activities of his or her choice; to attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with the child's age and development level; to work and develop job skills at an age-appropriate level that is consistent with state law; and to have social contacts with people outside of the foster care system, such as teachers, church members, mentors, and friends. (Welfare and Institutions Code § 16001.9.)
3. Children who are in the care of the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS), whether in temporary or court-ordered placement, benefit greatly from the opportunity to participate in school activities, after-school-sponsored activities, and other extracurricular community, social or religious activities. Participation in such activities helps to normalize the child's life and mitigate the disruption caused by out-of-home placement. Participation in many of these activities require the signed consent of a parent or guardian. Parents of children in the care of DFCS are not always readily available to sign consent forms or other related documents necessary for their children to participate in these activities while their children are in the care of DFCS.
4. To help expedite the timely authorization for children placed in temporary or court-ordered out-of-home placement to participate in school activities, after-school-sponsored activities, and other extracurricular community, social or religious activities, it is reasonable and appropriate for the Juvenile Court to authorize the child's social worker and temporary or court-ordered caregiver to sign necessary consent forms required for participation in these activities.

5. The California Department of Social Services issued an all-county information notice (I-79-01) on September 18, 2001, which recommended that “counties seek standing orders rather than individual orders that authorize social workers or foster parents to give consent for foster youth to participate in school sponsored activities.”

THEREFORE, THE COURT MAKES THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

For any child placed in temporary or court-ordered out-of-home placement under the supervision of DFCS, the court authorizes the child’s social worker, foster parent, or approved relative and nonrelative extended family member caretaker, acting in their capacity as a prudent parent, to sign consent forms and other related documents necessary for the child to participate in school activities, extracurricular activities, cultural activities, religious activities, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with the child’s age and developmental level.

DATE: 6/16/08


HON. KATHERINE LUCERO
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT