

FILED

MAY 02 2013

DAVID H. YAMASAKI
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk
Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

BY Irene Lai DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

JUVENILE DIVISION

STANDING ORDER

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERS FOR PERMANENCY
FIDELITY ASSESSMENT TEAM TO OBSERVE
SOCIAL WORKER MEETINGS WITH FAMILIES**

The Court recognizes that the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) is part of the California Partners for Permanency (CAPP), a national project focused on reducing the number of children in long-term foster care. As part of that project, DFCS has been training social workers on the CAPP Child and Family Practice Model and incorporating those practice changes in its work with families. The goal of this practice model is to provide children with the greatest support possible to safely remain with their families, return to their families, or live with relatives or those with whom they have significant family relationships.

Part of the CAPP project includes looking at the changing interaction of DFCS staff with the families and assessing whether those changes are helpful to families. In order to assess these practice changes it is necessary to create a Fidelity Assessment Team to act as independent observers who have been trained in the CAPP practice model and are specially selected to observe the social workers' use of the CAPP Child and Family Practice Model.

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, the Court hereby authorizes the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency (SSA) and DFCS to convene a Fidelity Assessment Team to observe social workers' interactions during meetings with the child(ren), the family and their circle of support in the use of this new practice model. The Fidelity Assessment Team is also authorized to meet with the family and discuss the family's thoughts on the practice changes. Any observation and discussion of a family will be with the family's permission and with the understanding that the Team

STANDING ORDER

1 is not there to observe the family, but instead to observe the social worker with respect to fidelity to
2 the CAPP Child and Family Practice Model. The Fidelity Assessment Team may consist of SSA
3 and DFCS staff, community partners, including services providers, birth parents (with closed
4 dependency matters only), foster parents and former foster youth. All members of the CAPP
5 Fidelity Assessment Team shall be trained in the CAPP Child and Family Practice Model and will
6 understand the guiding principles for this practice change.

7 All members of the Fidelity Assessment Team shall sign statements that they understand the
8 confidential nature of the information being discussed in the family meeting and agree to keep all
9 information confidential. Following the observation of the social workers' meetings with families,
10 the Court authorizes the Fidelity Assessment Team to discuss their observations among the team
11 members. The purpose of the follow up discussions will be to ensure the practice model is working
12 to the benefit of families, to identify any necessary changes to support the practice model, and to
13 look at improvements in support, training, and skill-building of social workers in the CAPP Child
14 and Family Practice Model. Aggregate information will be entered into the state Decision Support
15 Data System (DSDS) for the purpose of identifying trends and determining progress.

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17 This order shall expire on September 30, 2015.

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19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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23 Date 5/2/13

Shawna Schwarz
THE HONORABLE SHAWNA SCHWARZ
Supervising Judge, Juvenile Dependency Court