

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

## STANDING ORDER AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS APPLYING FOR IMMIGRATION RELIEF

On November 20, 2014, President Barack Obama announced that the United States (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would not deport certain undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and parents of lawful permanent residents (referred here to as DAPA relief). The president also announced an expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for undocumented youth who came to the U.S. as children. Under a directive from the secretary of DHS, these parents and youth may be granted a type of temporary permission to stay in the U.S. called "deferred action." The Santa Clara County Executive's Office of Immigrant Relations reports that approximately 77,000 people in Santa Clara County could qualify for DAPA or DACA relief.

The benefits of deferred action to the families and children of Santa Clara County include: protection from deportation for a 3-year period; work authorization; a social security number; the ability to obtain a driver's license; and, the ability to request permission to travel abroad.

Among the criteria for qualifying for DACA or DAPA relief is proof an individual has continuously lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. Applicants for DAPA and DACA relief can submit a variety of documentation to demonstrate continuous residency, including documentation that an applicant received services from a child welfare agency in the U.S.

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827 authorizes minors and parents involved in a juvenile proceeding to inspect and receive copies of the juvenile case file. The presiding judge of the juvenile court must authorize the use or dissemination of any portion of a juvenile case file or information relating to the content of the juvenile case file.

In order to assist individuals in obtaining the benefits conferred by DAPA and DACA relief, it is hereby ordered that:

- 1. Individuals with current or closed child welfare cases may use relevant documents from their juvenile court file and/or child welfare case file for the purpose of applying for DAPA or DACA relief. Individuals will request copies of juvenile court or case file information according to Santa Clara County Local Rule, Juvenile Rule, 1.J.(4)(c).
- 2. For purposes of applying for DAPA or DACA relief, individuals who have received child welfare services may request, and the Department may provide, a letter indicating the time frame that an individual received child welfare services. The letter will not reference any underlying juvenile court proceeding or specific case information.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 6/12/15

Shawna Schwary
Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Court

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