

FILED

JUL 24 2017

Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY G. DUARTE
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DEPUTY

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

**STANDING ORDER AUTHORIZING CHILD ADVOCATES OF SILICON VALLEY TO OBTAIN
INFORMATION TO MATCH CHILDREN WITH A COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE**

In order to better serve the children who are dependents of the Santa Clara County Superior Court, and as required by California Rules of Court (CRC), Rule 5.655, Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, the Court Appointed Special Advocate program in Santa Clara County, has designed a procedure for assessing all children appearing before the Juvenile Court and matching children with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

The procedure includes reviewing all children entering the juvenile dependency court system to determine if a CASA is appropriate. Once a child is ready to be placed on the CASA waiting list, the appropriateness will be confirmed with the Department of Family and Children's Services. Once confirmed, the child's name will be placed on a list of waiting cases to be matched with and assigned to a CASA. In addition to this process, the Juvenile Court, social workers, attorneys in the dependency system, and other interested persons in the dependency system can request that a child's name be prioritized on the waiting list. The names of children will be removed from the list when the case is dismissed or the Juvenile Court either requests or orders that a child be removed from the waiting list.

This procedure was designed to expedite the referral process and ensure that all children are considered for and best matched with a CASA. To implement this process, it is necessary for Child Advocates of Silicon Valley to receive and review copies of court reports, filed documents and minute orders for all juvenile dependency proceedings in all cases and to receive children's placement, demographic, and education information. Documents and information will be handled and stored in a manner that ensures the reports and all information remain confidential. All documents and information will be handled pursuant to the confidentiality guidelines outlined in CRC, Rule 5.655, and Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 105 and 827. Documents concerning cases not selected for appointment of a CASA will be destroyed.

THEREFORE, THE COURT MAKES THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley is authorized to obtain and review all juvenile dependency court reports, filed documents, and minute orders for the purpose of reviewing children to be placed on the waiting list and to be matched with a CASA. The Department of Family and Children's Services is authorized to provide Child Advocates of Silicon Valley placement, demographic, and education information for all children being reviewed and or matched with a CASA. The reports will be handled in accordance with the procedure outlined above. This order will end July 1, 2019.

Dated: 7/21/17

Shawna Schwarz
Honorable Shawna S. Schwarz
Judge of the Superior Court