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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Alliance for Children's Rights
& Public Counsel,
Petitioner

Blanket order RE: ADOPTION REFERRALS TO
THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS &
PUBLIC COUNSEL

The Alliance for Children's Rights and Public Counsel request that:

1. For all adoption cases, following the termination of parental rights under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 366.26(b)(1), the minor's attorney shall, absent good cause, or an express preference of the adopting parent present at the hearing, or in the absence of such adopting parent at the hearing, refer the adopting parent, through completing an Adoption Referral Form in its entirety, for potential representation to Public Counsel for all cases in which the child's court case number is even, and to The Alliance for Children's Rights for all cases in which the child's court case number is odd
2. In the event that DCFS has completed the home study and adoptive placement and has identified the case as ready to finalize, a DCFS Adoption Liaison shall refer the case to Public Counsel, if the child's court case number is even, and to The Alliance for Children's Rights if the court case number is odd. A DCFS Adoption Liaison shall make this referral by completing a Pro Bono Referral & Information Sheet Form in its entirety. The DCFS Adoption Liaison shall then send a copy of the completed Adoption Referral Form to the minor's attorney.
3. For adoption cases where parental rights have been terminated and the completion of the home study and/or adoptive placement is pending, or the adoptive placement has been completed, but the case is not ready to finalize, DCFS may refer the case to Public Counsel if the child's court case number is even, and to The Alliance for Children's Rights if the court case number is odd,

1 at the request of Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children's Rights. A DCFS Adoption
2 Liaison may make this referral by completing an Attorney Information Sheet or Backlog Case
3 Referral Form in its entirety.

- 4 4. Pursuant to Family Code Section 9200, all Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children's
5 Rights attorneys and pro bono attorneys referred cases by Public Counsel or The Alliance for
6 Children's Rights who have been retained to represent the adopting parent be given access, as
7 available under State law and regulations, to Juvenile Court records and information on the
8 dependent children who are to be adopted for the purpose of representing the adopting parent in
9 the adoption.

10 GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, the Juvenile Court hereby issues the following order pursuant to Welfare
11 and Institutions Code Section 827, Family Code Section 9200, California Rules of Court, Rule 1423 and
12 all applicable state laws and regulations:

- 13 5. For all new adoption cases, following the termination of parental rights under Welfare and
14 Institutions Code Section 366.26(b)(1), the minor's attorney shall, absent good cause, or an
15 express preference of the adopting parent present at the hearing, or in the absence of such
16 adopting parent at the hearing, refer the adopting parent, through completing an Adoption
17 Referral Form in its entirety, for potential representation to Public Counsel for all cases in which
18 the child's court case number is even, and to The Alliance for Children's Rights for all cases in
19 which the child's court case number is odd.
- 20 6. In the event that DCFS has completed the home study and adoptive placement and has identified
21 the case as ready to finalize, a DCFS Adoption Liaison shall refer the case to Public Counsel, if
22 the child's court case number is even, and to The Alliance for Children's Rights if the court case
23 number is odd. A DCFS Adoption Liaison shall make this referral by completing a Pro Bono
24 Referral & Information Sheet Form in its entirety. The DCFS Adoption Liaison shall then send a
25 copy of the completed Adoption Referral Form to the minor's attorney.
- 26 7. For adoption cases where parental rights have been terminated and the completion of the home
27 study and/or adoptive placement is pending, or the adoptive placement has been completed, but
28 the case is not ready to finalize, DCFS may refer the case to Public Counsel if the child's court
case number is even, and to The Alliance for Children's Rights if the court case number is odd,
at the request of Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children's Rights. A DCFS Adoption
Liaison may make this referral by completing an Attorney Information Sheet or Backlog Case
Referral Form in its entirety.
8. Subject to paragraph (6) below, where necessary and relevant to assess a case properly, prepare a
case or represent an adopting parent who has been referred to Public Counsel or The Alliance for
Children's Rights for representation, Public Counsel, The Alliance for Children's Rights and pro
bono attorneys referred cases by Public Counsel or The Alliance for Children's Rights, shall be
given access to persons connected to the child, to the Juvenile Court records or information upon
submission of a signed Representation Agreement, Retainer Agreement or Engagement letter.
9. Records include, but are not limited to, those defined in California Rules of Court 1423: (1) All
documents filed in a Juvenile Court case; (2) Reports to the court by probation officers, social
workers of child welfare services programs, and court-appointed special advocates;
(3) Documents made available to probation officers, social workers of child welfare services

1 programs, and court-appointed special advocates in preparation of reports to the court;
2 (4) Documents relating to a child concerning whom a petition has been filed in Juvenile court,
3 which are maintained in the office files of probation officers, social workers of child welfare
4 services programs, and court-appointed special advocates; (5) Transcripts, records, or reports
5 relating to matters prepared or released by the court, probation department, or child welfare
6 services program; and (6) Documents, video or audio tapes, photographs, and exhibits admitted
7 into evidence at Juvenile Court hearings; the minor client's Juvenile Court file and DCFS
8 records, as well as educational records, medical records, and psychological records contained
9 therein.

- Information includes, but is not limited to, information about the minor that is otherwise confidential, obtained from the minor's foster parents, social workers, day care providers, or teachers.
- Persons connected to the minor include, but are not limited to, the minor's foster parents, social workers, day care providers, or teachers.

10 10. In those cases where the adopting parent is not a relative or foster parent who has previously had
11 access to information about the minor including the identity of the birth parents or the adopting
12 parent is not a relative or foster parent who currently has access to the necessary information, the
13 attorney for the adopting parent shall contact the minor's attorney who shall provide all
14 requested information with the exception of the identity of the birth parents. In those instances
15 where the minor's attorney does not have the requested information, i.e., identify of medical
16 provider, etc., the social worker for the minor shall provide the information to the attorney for
17 the adopting parent upon request.

18 11. Public Counsel, The Alliance for Children's Rights and pro bono attorneys referred cases by
19 Public Counsel or The Alliance for Children's Rights shall be bound by all laws pertaining to
20 Juvenile Court confidentiality, as well as the Juvenile Court Confidentiality Policy. Any and all
21 records or information received pursuant to this order shall be received in confidence for the
22 limited purpose for which it was provided and shall not be further disseminated except as
23 necessary and relevant for representation of the client's interests, solely in the adoption
24 proceedings.

25 12. Public Counsel, The Alliance for Children's Rights and pro bono attorneys referred cases by
26 Public Counsel or The Alliance for Children's Rights shall employ all reasonably necessary
27 safeguard measures, including implementation of in-house procedures and protocols regarding
28 storage, sealing and access, to ensure against breach of confidentiality and unauthorized
dissemination of any records or information received pursuant to this order.

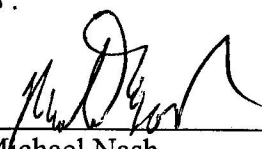
1 This order shall remain in effect unless or until it is revoked or otherwise amended on the
2 motion of the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge or at the request of any interested parties.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4 A true copy of this order is mailed via U.S. Mail this date to Petitioners. Public Counsel and The
5 Alliance for Children's Rights are directed to serve copies of this order upon County Counsel,
6 the Department of Children and Family Services, Children's law Center and
7 Juvenile Court Bar Association.

8 Dated: _____

9 4/7/03

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11 _____
12 Michael Nash

13 Presiding Judge Juvenile Court
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