

**FILED**

LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

JAN 12 2005

JOHN A. CLARKE, CLERK  
*Suzanna Urquidi*  
BY SUZANNA URQUIDI, DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
JUVENILE COURT

On behalf of:

Department of Children and Family Services

Petitioner

**BLANKET ORDER RE: ACCESS  
TO JUVENILE CASE FILES  
PURSUANT TO WELFARE AND  
INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 827**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is responsible for administration of the foster care program within Los Angeles County. (Welf. and Inst. Code §10800.) And the Board is required to provide, and is publicly accountable for, oversight, direction, and supervision of the local foster care program. (Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 10800- 10802.) Information about children who have died after some contact with the Department of Children and Family Services ("DCFS") is regularly required by the Board and its administrative personnel in order to soundly and effectively discharge the Board's statutory obligation to administrator the local foster care program.

Immediate release of this information is necessary to allow the Board to expeditiously examine the circumstances surrounding the possible abuse of children after their contact with DCFS, to assess any deficiencies in County policies or practices evidenced by their cases, and, if necessary, to direct County entities to take remedial action protecting other children currently at risk in similar circumstances because of such policies or practices.

Release of this information to the Board also leads to better services for children and families

1 in Los Angeles County and, ultimately, to improved child safety. Such release also fosters heightened  
2 scrutiny and debate on the performance of the County entities involved with protecting children.  
3 Through this review, flaws and mistakes may be identified and systemic improvements to the local  
4 child welfare system may be made which protect future children from harm.

5  
6 **ORDER**

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8 Good cause appearing, the Juvenile Court hereby issues the following Order pursuant to  
9 Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 and California Rules of Court, Rule 1423:

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11 1. The request for a blanket order is granted. DCFS is permitted a limited waiver of the  
12 confidentiality requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 and may freely discuss  
13 instances of child death with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, individual members of  
14 the Board, their deputies, and the Children's Services Inspector General and may share any related  
15 documents with these entities as necessary to allow them to effectively administer the local foster care/  
16 child protective program.

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18 2. Any person or entity receiving information pursuant to this order must develop procedures to  
19 protect the confidentiality of the information and the identity of the involved parties, especially  
20 information relating to and identifying any child other than the deceased child unless otherwise  
21 authorized by the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge. Any documents released from the records of DCFS  
22 shall be maintained in a separate confidential file clearly marked with the instruction: "This record  
23 contains confidential information. Unlawful dissemination of this record is a misdemeanor."

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25 3. Prior to releasing confidential information pursuant to this order, DCFS is required to inform  
26 the receiving parties of the confidentiality requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code section 827,  
27 California Rules of Court, Rule 1423, subdivision (a), and Superior Court Local Rules, Rule 17.1,  
28 subdivision (a)(1), in regards to further dissemination.

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

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4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 DATED: 11/26/05

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Michael Nash  
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court

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