

SEP 22 2004

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

On behalf of:

Department of Children and Family Services
and
Consortium for Children,

Petitioners

BLANKET ORDER RE: WAIVER
OF CONFIDENTIALITY FOR
CONSORTIUM FOR CHILDREN'S
PERMANENCY PLANNING
MEDIATION PROGRAM

Permanency Planning Mediation, a program provided by the Consortium for Children (CFC), is an alternative child and family-focused resolution tool intended to allow parents in the dependency system an opportunity to arrange for contact with their children after a permanent plan (adoption or guardianship) has been ordered. The parents' participation in the Permanency Planning Mediation program is voluntary. With this petition, the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests a limited waiver of confidentiality to share information and records with CFC for the purpose of facilitating the Permanency Planning Mediation program.

1 UPON CONSIDERATION of the request and responses thereto, the Juvenile Court
2 hereby issues the following order pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 and
3 California Rules of Court, Rule 1423:

4 1. DCFS may share information and records with CFC for the purpose of facilitating the
5 Permanency Planning Mediation program. The shared information and records may
6 include, but are not limited to, those defined in Rule 1423 of the California Rules of
7 Court, and may consist of records, documents, reports, home studies, applications, and
8 other non-privileged documents made available to probation officers, social workers,
9 child welfare services programs, and court appointed special advocates; documents in
10 preparation of hearings before the court; and reports to the court regarding the child, his
11 or her parents, siblings or other persons connected to the child.

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13 "Persons connected to the child" may include, but are not limited to, the child's foster
14 parent, prospective permanent parent, birth parent, social worker, attorney, day care
15 provider, teacher, birth relatives, or siblings.

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17 "Information" may also include, but is not limited to, information about the child that is
18 otherwise confidential but not privileged, obtained from the child's foster parent, social
19 worker, day care provider, or teacher. Information may be a summary of information
20 necessary to provide CFC with the names, addresses, phone numbers, date of birth of the
21 child in the care and custody of DCFS, his or her caregiver, his or her prospective
22 permanent family, his or her birth relatives and the names of other parties with whom the
23 child has a significant blood or other relationship, including siblings whom the child may
24 or may not know and their caregivers.

1 2. Once DCFS identifies a child for participation in the Permanency Planning Mediation
2 program and makes a referral to CFC, either DCFS or CFC shall provide notice of such
3 referral to the judicial officer hearing the matter and to all parties and/or their attorneys in
4 the child's case, including any assigned court appointed special advocate.

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6 3. No referral to the Permanency Planning Mediation program shall be done prior to the
7 disposition of a dependency case.

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9 4. DCFS and CFC shall provide quarterly reports to the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge
10 regarding the Permanency Planning Mediation program. The reports shall include the
11 general status of the program and provide case specific information including: the name
12 of each child participating in the program, that child's court case number and assigned
13 courtroom, the length of time the child participated in the program, significant activities
14 that occurred during the child's participation, and the disposition of each intervention
15 involving the child.

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17 5. At the end of the Permanency Planning Mediation program, DCFS and CFC shall provide
18 the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge a full summary report detailing the outcomes of the
19 program.

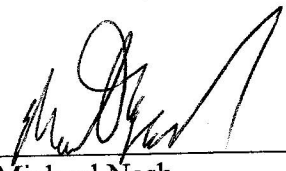
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21 6. DCFS and CFC shall have one year to complete the Permanency Planning Mediation
22 program. If CFC requires additional time to complete the Permanency Planning
23 Mediation program, it must make a request to the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge and
24 provide justification for continued access to confidential dependency information and
25 records.

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7. CFC shall maintain the confidentiality of the shared information and records. Any and all information and records received pursuant to this order shall be kept in confidence for the limited purpose for which it was provided and shall not be further disseminated except as necessary and relevant for the creation of a more permanent plan for the child.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: 9/22/04



Michael Nash
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court