

1 CHAMBERS OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE
2 LOS ANGELES JUVENILE COURT
3 Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court
4 201 Centre Plaza Drive, Suite 3
5 Monterey Park, CA- 91754-2158
6 (323) 526-6377

FILED
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 3 2002

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

7 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
8 JUVENILE COURT

9
10 On behalf of:)

11 Los Angeles County Superior Court)
12 Probate Investigators,)

13 Petitioners)
14

BLANKET ORDER RE:
ACCESS TO JUVENILE
CASE FILES

15 Under California law, a relative or other person on behalf of a child, or the child if he or she is 12
16 years of age or older, may petition the Probate Court to become the guardian of the person of a child.
17 If the petitioner for appointment as the guardian of the person is a relative of the proposed ward, an
18 investigation of the proposed guardian is conducted by a court investigator. Unless waived by the
19 Court, the court investigator must prepare a report for the Probate Court which must include a
20 discussion of all of the following:

- 21 (i) A social history of the guardian.
22 (ii) A social history of the proposed ward, including, to the extent feasible, an
23 assessment of any identified developmental, emotional, psychological, or educational
24 needs of the proposed ward and the capability of the petitioner to meet those needs.
25 (iii) The relationship of the proposed ward to the guardian, including the duration and
26 character of the relationship, where applicable, the circumstances whereby physical
27 custody of the proposed ward was acquired by the guardian, and a statement of the
28 proposed ward's attitude concerning the proposed guardianship, unless the statement

1 of the attitude is affected by the proposed ward's developmental, physical, or
2 emotional condition.

3 (iv) The anticipated duration of the guardianship and the plans of both natural parents
4 and the proposed guardian for the stable and permanent home for the child.
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6 Pursuant to Probate Code section 1513(e), the court investigator must have access to the proposed
7 ward's school records, probation records, and public and private social services records, and to an
8 oral or written summary of the proposed ward's medical records and psychological records prepared
9 by any physician, psychologist, or psychiatrist who made or who is maintaining those records. As
10 a result, if the petition filed in the Probate Court involves a child who is or was under the jurisdiction
11 of the Juvenile Court, the court investigator requests access to the child's juvenile case file.
12

13 GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, the Juvenile Court issues the following orders:

- 14 1. Petitioners are authorized to have access to juvenile case files, as defined by Welfare and
15 Institutions Code section 827 and California Rules of Court, Rule 1423(a), including any
16 Juvenile Dependency or Delinquency Court legal file and records maintained by the
17 Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), whether or not a petition was ever
18 filed in the Juvenile Court, involving the proposed ward of the guardianship.
- 19 2. Petitioners may copy and use such information in the course of conducting its investigation
20 and preparing its report to the Probate Court pursuant to Probate Code section 1513.
- 21 3. This Order is issued on the condition that Petitioners agree to the following limitations:
 - 22 (a) Petitioners agree to abide by the Los Angeles Superior Court Local Rules regarding
23 confidentiality.
 - 24 (b) Any information obtained shall be used for the sole purpose of evaluating a proposed
25 guardian as described in Probate Code section 1513.
 - 26 (c) The Superior Court Probate Investigators shall ensure the confidentiality of the Juvenile
27 Court and DCFS records by maintaining such information in a separate confidential
28 envelope clearly marked with the instruction: "This record contains confidential

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information. Unlawful dissemination of this record is a crime.”

(d) Petitioners shall ensure that only authorized persons and agencies shall have access to the confidential information released to them.

(e) Petitioners shall petition the Juvenile Court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 to access confidential information that is not covered by this order or to use or provide confidential information other than as described by Probate Code section 1513.

(f) Petitioners shall not copy and use information disclosing the identity of any child abuse reporter contained in any records without filing a petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 9/3/02



MICHAEL NASH
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court