

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

JAN - 7 2003

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:)

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12 Public Counsel,)

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Petitioner

BLANKET ORDER RE:
ACCESS TO CHILDREN UNDER
THE JURISDICTION OF THE
JUVENILE COURT AND THEIR
JUVENILE CASE FILES AND
INFORMATION

21 On December 20, 2002, Public Counsel submitted a request to renew its "Special Order Re:
22 Public Counsel Blanket Order." The Special Order provided Public Counsel with access to children
23 under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court and to their confidential juvenile case files and
24 information. The children are those who have been referred to Public Counsel by the Juvenile Court
25 or its attorneys for the purpose of representing said children in matters involving, but not limited to,
26 any of the following areas:

- 21 ♦ Probate;
- 22 ♦ Torts;
- 23 ♦ Government benefits;
- 24 ♦ Special education;
- 25 ♦ Regional Center denials; and
- 26 ♦ Health care services.

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, the Juvenile Court hereby issues the following order pursuant

1 to Welfare and Institutions Code §827 and California Rules of Court, Rule 1423:
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3 1. Where necessary and relevant to properly assess or prepare a case, or represent a dependent
4 child who has been referred to Public Counsel for representation or legal assistance, Public
5 Counsel staff or *pro bono* attorney representing the child shall be given access to the child,
6 to persons connected to the child, and to the Juvenile Court records or information upon
7 submission of a "Declaration of Attorney Representation" signed under penalty of perjury
8 setting forth said need, or upon submission of an order appointing an individual as a
9 *guardian ad litem* or as an attorney for the child, signed by the Presiding Judge of the
10 Juvenile Court.

11
12 2. "Records" include, but are not limited to, those defined in California Rules of Court, Rule
13 1423: (i) all documents filed in a Juvenile Court case; (ii) reports to the Court by probation
14 officers, social workers of child welfare services programs, and court-appointed special
15 advocates; (iii) documents made available to probation officers, social workers of child
16 welfare services programs, and court-appointed special advocates in preparation of reports
17 to the Court; (iv) documents relating to a child for whom a petition has been filed in Court,
18 which are maintained in the office files of probation officers, social workers of child welfare
19 services programs, and court-appointed special advocates; (v) transcripts, records, or reports
20 relating to matters prepared or released by the Court, Probation Department, or child welfare
21 services program; and (vi) documents, video or audio tapes, photographs, and exhibits
22 admitted into evidence at Court hearings; the child client's court file and child welfare
23 services records, as well as educational, medical, and psychological records contained
24 therein.

25
26 "Information" includes, but is not limited to, information about the child client which is
27 otherwise confidential, obtained from the child client's foster parents, social workers, day
28 care providers, or teachers.

1 "Persons connected to the child" include, but are not limited to, the child client's foster
2 parents, social workers, day care providers, or teachers.

3
4 3. Public Counsel staff and *pro bono* attorneys shall be bound by all laws pertaining to Juvenile
5 Court confidentiality, as well as to the Juvenile Court confidentiality policy. Any and all
6 records or information received pursuant to this order shall be received in confidence for the
7 limited purpose for which it was provided and shall not be further disseminated except as
8 necessary and relevant for effective representation of the child client's interests.

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10 4. Public Counsel staff and *pro bono* attorneys shall employ all necessary safeguard measures,
11 including implementation of in-house procedures and protocols regarding storage, sealing
12 and access, to ensure against breach of confidentiality and unauthorized dissemination of any
13 records or information received pursuant to this order.

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15 5. Authorization for use of, or reference to, any records or information other than that of the
16 child shall be obtained by separately petitioning the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
17 pursuant to Rule 17.1 of the Los Angeles Superior Court Rules regarding confidentiality.

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

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22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23
24 DATED: 11/7/03



MICHAEL NASH
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court



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28
BY _____
CLERK OF COURT
DEPT. OF PROBATION AND PAROLE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SUPERIOR COURT