



Chambers of
MARIA D. HERNANDEZ
PRESIDING JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURT

Superior Court of California County of Orange

341 THE CITY DRIVE
ORANGE, CA 92868
PHONE: (657) 622-5502

Orange County Juvenile Court Miscellaneous Order M-2015-3

Re: Authorization to Implement a Cultural Broker Program

The Children and Family Services Division of the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) continuously strives to improve and refine the services offered to at-risk families in Orange County.

Language barriers and cultural differences often present significant challenges to effective communication and understanding between Social Workers and at-risk families.

Cultural Broker Programs throughout the state, particularly in Fresno County, San Diego County and Los Angeles County, and specifically the Cultural Broker Program initiated here in Orange County in the Emergency Response Unit via Miscellaneous Order signed on April 9, 2013, have been effective at improving communication and understanding between Social Workers and at-risk families.

Cultural Brokers assist Emergency Response Social Workers, Team Decision Making Social Workers and Voluntary Family Services Social Workers in the field, in cases where language barriers and cultural differences would likely otherwise impede Social Workers from effectively assessing and serving at-risk families.

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN THEREFOR, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that SSA is authorized to continue a Cultural Broker Program in Orange County in partnership with the Mexican Consulate, Latino Health Access, Access California Services (serving the Arab American and Muslim American communities), Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other appropriate community organizations.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Cultural Brokers be thoroughly screened, trained and serviced by SSA. Training for Cultural Brokers shall include court and social services policy and procedure, Welfare and Institutions Code sections that relate to child abuse, child abuse reporting, and confidentiality, and general training on the dependency process.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Cultural Brokers execute a signed Cultural Broker Pledge of Confidentiality wherein they acknowledge the following: 1) receipt of a copy of this

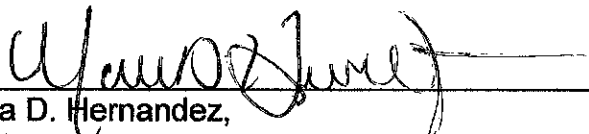
Page 2

Miscellaneous Order M-2015-3; 2) Cultural Brokers are multidisciplinary personnel team members who may not share or repeat confidential information with nonparties; 3) violation of the confidentiality provisions will likely result in their being found in contempt of court and/or prosecuted for violating California Penal Code Section 11167.5(a) and Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827(b)(2).

This order will expire January 1, 2017.

SO ORDERED:

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2015



Maria D. Hernandez,
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court

1 Cultural Broker Program PDSA in Orange County and permitting the sharing of relevant confidential
2 information amongst the Cultural Broker Program stakeholders and Cultural Brokers.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
4 true and correct, and as to those things that are stated under information and belief, I believe them to be
5 true. Dated this 3rd day of March, 2015, at Orange, California.

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8 Michael Meyers, Program Manager,
9 Orange County Social Services Agency,
10 Children and Family Services Division,
11 Voluntary Family Services Program
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