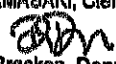


MAY 20 2026

DAVID H. YAMASAKI, Clerk of the Court


BY: R. Bracken, Deputy Clerk

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE
SITTING AS THE JUVENILE COURT
MISCELLANEOUS ORDER M-2026-16**

**TITLE: ORDER AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE NATIONAL
CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

**TO: THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN
(NCMEC)
DIRECTOR, ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**

Missing and runaway foster children and nonminor dependents are at increased risk of harm and becoming victims of exploitation. In order to protect this vulnerable population the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) seeks to use available methods to find these children and nonminor dependents. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16501.35, SSA has developed a protocol to locate missing children and nonminor dependents. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has also directed child welfare departments to file missing person's reports for nonminor dependents that are missing from care and have: competency issues, or there is a reasonable suspicion the nonminor is a victim of harm or foul play. (CDSS ACL 16-15.) Further, California Penal Code section 11166 subdivision (j)(3) requires that when a foster you believed to be the victim of, or is at risk of being the victim of, commercial sexual exploitation, is missing or has been

1 abducted, the county welfare department shall immediately, or in no case later than 24
2 hours from receipt of the information, report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement
3 authority for entry into the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal
4 Bureau of Investigation and to The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
5 (NCMEC). NCMEC is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to help find missing children,
6 reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization. SSA seeks court
7 authorization to cooperate with NCMEC to locate and return missing foster children and
8 nonminor dependents that are missing from care.

9 Juvenile court cases are subject to the confidentiality provisions provided by statute
10 and the constitutional right to privacy. (Cal. Const., Art. I, § 1; Welf. & Inst. Code, § 827.)
11 Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 and rule 5.552 of the California Rules
12 of Court, a court order is required to share information with NCMEC for the purpose of
13 locating and returning missing foster youth.

14 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that NCMEC may be
15 granted access to confidential information about missing foster children and nonminor
16 dependents subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 17 1. SSA may share information about missing foster children and nonminor dependents
18 with NCMEC. SSA may share the youth's full name, date of birth, the location of
19 where the youth went missing, available photographs to assist in identification of the
20 youth, and name and contact information of the investigating law enforcement
21 agency. NCMEC, or any other agency acting in cooperation with NCMEC to help
22 locate the missing youth, may publish photographs and posters of the youth in a
23 place and manner deemed most likely to achieve the youth's return. Such
24 photographs and posters may include the missing youth's name, age, and identifying
25 information (including but not limited to height, weight, ethnicity, identifying marks,
26 and hair and eye color).

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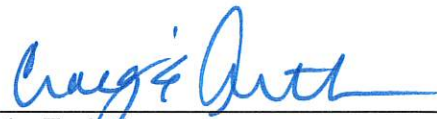
- 1 2. No information about the child or nonminor dependent's dependency case shall be
2 released by way of published posters, photographs or any other materials without
3 further order of this court.
- 4 3. This Order is not intended to replace, nullify, or conflict with any existing policies of
5 the Orange County Superior Court, Juvenile Division; SSA; or any other public or
6 private agency.
- 7 4. Any unauthorized disclosure of confidential information or failure to comply with the
8 terms and conditions of this Order may be punishable as contempt of court.
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10 Notwithstanding Local Rule 900.1.3, this Order will not expire absent further order of
11 the Court.

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13 Dated this 20th day of May, 2026.

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17 Craig E. Arthur
18 Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
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