

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-2026-19**

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION AND ORDER PERMITTING THE ORANGE COUNTY
SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATING TO
THE SUPERVISION AND DOCUMENTATION OF CHILD WELFARE
REFERRALS AND CASES TO THE ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE OF
INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

**TO: DIRECTOR, ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY; AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT
REVIEW**

The Presiding Judge, having engaged in informal discussions with representatives of the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) and the Orange County Office of Independent Review ("OIR"), regarding SSA's supervision and documentation of child welfare referrals and cases and the OIR's systemic review of such incidents, finds that for the efficient access and exchange of confidential information, documents, records, audio, and video, and the saving of time and financial resources, **GOOD CAUSE EXISTS FOR THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

- 1 1. SSA may provide copies of the following records, documents, audio/videos, and
2 information, subject to redactions of any parent/guardian and youth's names,
3 address(es), dates of birth, social security numbers, as required by California Welfare
4 and Institutions Code section 827 and any other applicable statute, rule, or
5 regulation, to the OIR:
 - 6 a. Any and all reports to the court prepared by social workers of the Child
7 Welfare Services program.
 - 8 b. Any and all documents, records, writings or other tangible items made
9 available to social workers of the Child Welfare Services programs in
10 preparation of reports to the court relating to the child concerning whom a
11 petition has been filed.
 - 12 c. Any and all documents, records, writings, or other tangible items relating to the
13 child concerning whom a petition has been filed in Juvenile Court, which are
14 maintained in the office files of social workers of the Child Welfare Services
15 programs.
 - 16 d. Any and all transcripts, records or reports relating to matters prepared or
17 released by the court or the Child Welfare Services program.
 - 18 e. Any and all narrative accounts relating to the child concerning whom a petition
19 has been filed.
 - 20 f. Any and all handwritten or typed notes of social workers or investigators
21 relating to the child concerning whom a petition has been filed.
 - 22 g. A complete copy of any computer files, including emails and any other
23 electronically transmitted information.
 - 24 h. Any and all documents, video or audio tapes, photographs and exhibits
25 admitted into evidence at any hearing concerning a child before the juvenile
26 court.
 - 27 i. Any and all Court minute orders in the possession of SSA.

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1 j. Any and all documents, reports, photographs, video or audio tapes or records
2 relating to the child, concerning whom a petition has been filed, in the
3 possession and control of SSA.

4 k. Any and all documents, reports, photographs, video or audio tapes or records
5 relating to the child, concerning whom a petition has been filed, in the
6 possession and control of SSA, located in the following folders:

- 7 i. Additional Services Documentation Folder;
- 8 ii. Case Activity Recording Folder;
- 9 iii. Cis Documents Folder;
- 10 iv. Court Documents Folder;
- 11 v. Fcis Folder;
- 12 vi. Medical Records Folder;
- 13 vii. Psychological/Medical/Dental/School Reports Folder;
- 14 viii. Search Folder;
- 15 ix. Medical Records Folder;
- 16 x. Out-Of-Home Care Evaluation Unit Records [Foster Care Division
17 (Dcs)];
- 18 xi. Community Care Licensing [Public And Confidential Records]
19 (Department Of Social Services);
- 20 xii. Juvenile Court File;
- 21 xiii. Any other Juvenile Court record (as defined under Welfare and
22 Institutions Code Section 827) not described above that is relevant to
23 this systemic review.

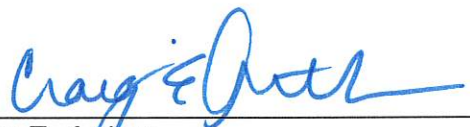
24 2. Additionally, SSA may also provide case notes, Child Abuse Registry Reports,
25 reports to/from law enforcement, Emergency Response Referral Information, Hotline
26 records and documentation (including tapes and transcripts), Delivered Service Logs,
27 Structured Decision Making (SDM) records, and CWS/CMS logs and reports.

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- 1 3. With respect to all documents, records, and videos provided, the OIR shall ensure
2 compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, and regulations regarding the
3 confidentiality of such records and the information contained therein, including, but
4 not limited to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827.
- 5 4. Any documents, records, and videos accessed by or provided to the OIR shall be
6 used exclusively in connection with and as a result of the OIR's stated purposes as
7 set forth in Orange County Ordinance Section 1-2-225, namely:
- 8 a. Reviewing systemic issues involving the SSA and serving as an independent
9 resource and counsel for the Board in order to ensure accountability with
10 regard to the performance and operations of relevant County Departments;
11 b. Reviewing specific incidents occurring in the SSA which may identify systemic
12 issues with regard to the performance and operations of the SSA; and
13 c. Providing a resource to ensure that high risk and potential liability issues are
14 identified and addressed through corrective actions.
- 15 5. This authorization is contingent upon the need of the OIR as it pertains to the
16 conduct of its official duties with respect to oversight of the SSA's policies,
17 procedures, practices, and incidents and is to remain in effect until otherwise ordered
18 by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

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20 Notwithstanding Local Rule 900.1.3, this Order will not expire absent further order of
21 the Court.

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23 Dated this 20th day of May, 2026.

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25 
26 Craig E. Arthur
27 Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
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