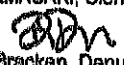


MAY 20 2026

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-2026-20

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE,
RESEARCH STUDY ON COMMERCIAL SEXUALLY EXPLOITED
CHILDREN**

**TO: DR. JODI QUAS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
DIRECTOR, ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER, ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION
DEPARTMENT**

The Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court understands the need for reliable data regarding human trafficking victims served by the Juvenile Court. Currently, there is no reliable data in Orange County regarding how many human trafficking victims who are minors are encountered or served by the Court, government agencies, or nonprofit agencies, and how these victims fare over time. Obtaining this information is crucial to determining which interventions improve responses and outcomes.

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1 To address this need, Dr. Quas will begin by tracking minors referred to and involved
2 in GRACE¹ Court via a repository. The data collected will provide much-needed insight into
3 which youth enroll in GRACE court, how often they encounter multiple agencies, how their
4 cases progress, and what services they receive. Furthermore, Dr. Quas will set up the
5 database in a manner that (a) minimizes burdens on social workers, victim advocates,
6 courts, attorneys, and law enforcement; (b) maintains victim confidentiality; and (c) allows
7 for easy generation of reports on victims, services, and responses in order to facilitate
8 comprehensive evaluation of county efforts designed to serve the needs of minors. From the
9 data collected, Dr. Quas will provide summaries of trends using anonymized data and may
10 publish anonymized data in aggregate in scientific outlets.

11 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, THEREFOR, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

- 12 1. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, shall have access
13 to specified case file documents and information, as approved by the Juvenile
14 Presiding Judge, of the minors who are suspected victims of human trafficking
15 (including minors who are evaluated for GRACE Court and/or participate in GRACE
16 Court). Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 787 Dr. Quas, and all
17 researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, will have access to information
18 contained in sealed cases pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 781, 786,
19 786.5, or 788 because the Court is satisfied that the research project or study
20 includes a methodology for the appropriate protection of the confidentiality of an
21 individual whose sealed record is accessed pursuant to this Order and any personally
22 identifying information relating to the individual whose sealed record is accessed will
23 not be further released, disseminated, or published by or through the researcher or
24 research organization. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr.
25 Quas, will have access to these case file documents through an Odyssey Web portal
26 or will be provided data in other formats at the discretion of Juvenile Court
27 Operations. During the time this Order is in effect, these documents and information
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¹ GRACE stands for Generating Resources to Abolish Child Exploitation.

1 shall be accessed and inspected without the necessity of filing petitions pursuant to
2 Welfare and Institutions Code § 827 for each youth involved in the study. The Court
3 shall retain all ownership rights to the data extracted from the Court, including after
4 the identifiers have been removed.

- 5 2. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, shall have access
6 to Social Services Agency files of the minors who are suspected victims of human
7 trafficking (including minors who are evaluated for GRACE Court and/or participate in
8 GRACE Court). During the time this Order is in effect, these documents and
9 information shall be accessed and inspected without the necessity of filing petitions
10 pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 827 for each youth involved in the study.
- 11 3. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, shall have access
12 to Probation files of the minors who are suspected victims of human trafficking
13 (including minors who are evaluated for GRACE Court and/or participate in GRACE
14 Court). During the time this Order is in effect, these documents and information shall
15 be accessed and inspected without the necessity of filing petitions pursuant to
16 Welfare and Institutions Code § 827 for each youth involved in the study.
- 17 4. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, shall have the
18 highest industry-standard safeguards (including administrative, physical, technical,
19 and procedural safeguards) against the destruction, loss, misuse, unauthorized
20 disclosure, or alteration of the Court Data or Confidential Information, and such other
21 related safeguards that are set forth in applicable laws or pursuant to Court policies
22 or procedures. All participant and case file data shall be securely maintained to the
23 highest extent. All data will be password protected. All identifying information will be
24 removed from the stored data, which will have a UCI identifier. No data containing
25 identifying information will be disclosed to anyone outside of Dr. Quas and her team.
26 Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, have passed a
27 Background Check conducted by Probation.

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- 1 5. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, know that juvenile
2 records are confidential under Welfare and Institutions Code § 827. Therefore, any
3 juvenile document or information extracted from a document will not be shared or
4 disseminated unless specifically approved by the Juvenile Presiding Judge.
5 Moreover, any data searched or extracted will be used for the sole purpose of this
6 project.
- 7 6. Dr. Quas, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, shall only utilize
8 the data obtained pursuant to this order to publish articles or present at conferences
9 for an academic or scientific purpose. No data shall be utilized to make a profit. Prior
10 to publishing any articles, or presenting at any conferences, Dr. Quas, and all
11 researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Quas, shall provide the Court notice and
12 an opportunity to review no shorter than 30 days. Any proposed public
13 announcement, press release, or other writing shall only contain summarized
14 information and shall not contain any identifying information.
- 15 7. Following the conclusion of the project, Dr. Quas may retain the data using the
16 highest industry-standard safeguards. Dr Quas may only maintain the data for
17 establishing validity for any findings from the project or to perform any additional
18 analyses at the request of the Court. If the Court requests that Dr. Quas destroy the
19 data, Dr. Quas will destroy the data and provide confirmation that the data has been
20 destroyed.

21 This order will expire on December 31, 2027.

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23 Dated this 20th day of May, 2026.

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