

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-2026-21

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE,
RESEARCH STUDY ON JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT**

**TO: DR. ELIZABETH CAUFFMAN, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE;
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER, ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION
DEPARTMENT**

In 2023, the Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) was awarded a grant by the Federal Department of Justice for the project entitled "Restructuring Juvenile Recovery Court." Included in the project description of the grant application was "hiring a consultant to update Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) program design." The Juvenile Court hired the University of California, Irvine, for Juvenile Recovery Court consulting services. The project lead is Elizabeth Cauffman, Ph.D. and the project is titled "On the Road to Recovery: Evaluating and Improving the Orange County Juvenile Recovery Court."

The substance use landscape has become drastically more deadly in the past several decades, and benchmarks for treatment success have shifted. As such, the Orange

1 County Superior Court is currently engaged in a project to update and modernize the
2 program to better serve legal-system-impacted young people with substance use issues.

3 In order to facilitate data-driven recommendations for improvement, Dr. Cauffman will
4 conduct a retrospective record review. Dr. Cauffman and her team will review the available
5 JRC and Juvenile Justice data and compare youth who successfully completed JRC, youth
6 who did not successfully complete JRC, and youth who did not participate in JRC. The data
7 collected will be utilized to better understand the impact of JRC on both the youth it serves
8 and the larger Orange County community.

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

- 10 1. Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, shall
11 have access to specified Juvenile Justice case file documents and information, as
12 approved by the Juvenile Presiding Judge. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code
13 § 787 Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, will
14 have access to information contained in sealed cases pursuant to Welfare and
15 Institutions Code § 781, 786, 786.5, or 788 because the Court is satisfied that the
16 research project or study includes a methodology for the appropriate protection of the
17 confidentiality of an individual whose sealed record is accessed pursuant to this
18 Order and any personally identifying information relating to the individual whose
19 sealed record is accessed will not be further released, disseminated, or published by
20 or through the researcher or research organization. Dr. Cauffman, and all
21 researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, will have access to these case
22 file documents through an Odyssey web portal or will be provided data in other
23 formats at the discretion of Juvenile Court Operations. During the time this Order is
24 in effect, these documents and information shall be accessed and inspected without
25 the necessity of filing petitions pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 827 for
26 each youth involved in the study.

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2. Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, shall have access to specified Probation files for Juvenile Justice cases. During the time this Order is in effect, these documents and information shall be accessed and inspected without the necessity of filing petitions pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 827 for each youth involved in the study.
3. The Court and the University of California, Irvine, have entered into a Contract, Contract # 2024-0009, which contained a Confidentiality Provision under Section Nine. As such, Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, shall comply with the Confidentiality Provision stated in the Contract.
4. Furthermore, Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, know that juvenile records are confidential under Welfare and Institutions Code § 827. Therefore, any juvenile document or information extracted from a document will not be shared or disseminated unless specifically approved by the Juvenile Presiding Judge. Moreover, any data searched or extracted will be used for the sole purpose of the project entitled "Restructuring Juvenile Recovery Court."
5. Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, shall only utilize the data obtained pursuant to this order to publish articles or present at conferences for an academic or scientific purpose. No data shall be utilized to make a profit. Prior to publishing any articles, or presenting at any conferences, Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, shall provide the Court notice and an opportunity to review and comment at least 30 days prior to submitting the article for publication or presentation at a conference. Any proposed article or presentation shall only contain summarized information and shall not contain any identifying information.
6. University of California, Irvine, shall have the highest industry-standard safeguards (including administrative, physical, technical, and procedural safeguards) against the destruction, loss, misuse, unauthorized disclosure, or alteration of the Court Data or Confidential Information, and such other related safeguards that are set forth in

1 applicable laws or pursuant to Court policies or procedures. All participant and case
2 file data shall be securely maintained to the highest extent. All data will be password
3 protected. All identifying information will be removed from the stored data, which will
4 have a UCI identifier. No data containing identifying information will be disclosed to
5 anyone outside of Dr. Cauffman and her team. Dr. Cauffman, and all researchers
6 and/or staff working under Dr. Cauffman, have passed a Background Check
7 conducted by Probation.

8 7. The Court shall retain all ownership rights to the data extracted from the Court,
9 including after the identifiers have been removed. Dr. Cauffman will provide the data
10 set to the Court, if requested.

11 8. Following the conclusion of the project, Dr. Cauffman may retain the data using the
12 highest industry-standard safeguards. Dr Cauffman may only maintain the data for
13 establishing validity for any findings from the project or to perform any additional
14 analyses at the request of the Court. If the Court requests that Dr. Cauffman destroy
15 the data, Dr. Cauffman will destroy the data and provide confirmation that the data
16 has been destroyed.

17 This order will expire On December 31, 2027. Should the contract for the consulting
18 services be extended past this date, this order will remain in effect until the end date of any
19 extended contract.

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21 Dated this 20th day of May, 2026.

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