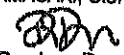


MAY 20 2026

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-2026-4**

TITLE: COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

**TO: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL
ADVOCATE (CASA) OF ORANGE COUNTY**

A. Applicability of Order:

1. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program was established to serve the needs of abused and neglected children in the juvenile court. CASA recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers who investigate the circumstances of the child, facilitate the provision of services, monitor compliance with orders of the court, and advocate the court and in the community in the best interests of the child. CASAs serve at the pleasure of, and report directly to, the Juvenile Court. Their duties, responsibilities, and the limits of the authority of CASAs are contained in and described by Welfare and Institutions Code, sections 100 – 109, and Rule 5.655, California Rules of Court.

2. This order shall apply only to the Orange County CASA program, its administrative personnel, advocates and volunteers. The authorizations granted by this order shall not apply to CASAs from any other county in California.
3. This order supersedes all prior orders regarding the Orange County CASA program.

B. Juvenile Court Files:

1. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, section 827(a)(1)(Q), CASA administrative personnel and CASA volunteers who have been appointed as advocates for juvenile court wards, dependents, and nonminor dependent are authorized to have access to, inspect, review and make notes of the "juvenile case file" (§827(e).), as to any child for whom a CASA has been appointed.
2. The juvenile case files are to remain in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Juvenile Division; and copies of any documents contained in the files are to be provided to CASA personnel without an order of the juvenile court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, sections 827 and 362.5 and Orange County Superior Court Local Rule 903.

C. CASA Family Connections:

1. CASA provides services to dependents placed in foster care to search for, identify and engage family or significant others to establish communication and explore possible permanent placement options. CASA Family Connections Volunteers are allowed on-site access to the minor's "juvenile case file", including files maintained by the Social Services Agency, as an aid in identifying family members, relatives, and significant others.

1 **D. Juvenile Justice Youth:**

- 2 1. In order to facilitate the purposes and goals of the CASA program, Orange
3 County Probation Department is ordered to provide to CASA
4 administrative personnel and volunteer advocates, access to, inspect,
5 review and make notes of the "juvenile case file" maintained by Probation,
6 as to those youth for whom CASA advocate has been appointed by the
7 Juvenile Court either in a dependency or juvenile justice case as a special
8 advocate for the minor.
- 9 2. The Orange County Probation Department is ordered to provide access
10 and visitation by CASA personnel and volunteer advocates with any youth
11 for whom CASA has been appointed, while the youth is detained at
12 Juvenile Hall or other custodial institution operated by Probation, in
13 accordance with Juvenile Hall procedures.

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15 **E. Disclosure of dependent, wardship, foster care status:**

- 16 1. By virtue of their status as dependent children of the Juvenile Court and/or
17 their living status in foster case, such children may require additional
18 assistance in education, medical and behavioral health care, and may
19 receive services and benefits, charitable and otherwise.
- 20 2. CASA advocates may disclose the status of a child as a dependent, ward
21 and/or in foster care, as necessary, in order to obtain assistance, benefits
22 and services for the child. The CASA advocate shall not disclose any
23 specific factual information about the child's case, including the factual
24 circumstances that brought the child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile
25 court, without further order of the Court.

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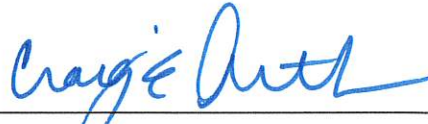
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1 **F. Notice to CASA:**

- 2 1. In order to facilitate the purposes and goals of the CASA program, as to
3 any dependency or juvenile justice matter involving those minors for whom
4 CASA has been appointed, the Juvenile Court, Probation Department,
5 Social Services Agency and all other parties to the matter, if designated to
6 give notice to the parties to the matter, shall provide notice to CASA in the
7 same manner as notice is given to any other party.

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

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11 Dated this 20th day of May, 2026.

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14 Craig E. Arthur
15 Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
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