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COUNTY COUNSEL

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To Whom It May Concern

RE: Presumptive Transfer - CWW consent to services

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent the Alameda County Social Services Agency. I am writing this letter on behalf of the Department of Children and Family Services ("DCFS"). For all County of Alameda dependency cases where the child is placed out-of-home, the DCFS Child Welfare Worker ("CWW") is authorized by the Juvenile Court to sign for consent to treatment for mental health services. At every detention hearing and disposition hearing where the child is removed from parental custody, the court issues a minute order containing the following finding and order:

"The Child Welfare Worker may authorize routine medical, dental, surgical, mental health or other remedial care for the child if the parent/guardian is unable or unwilling to authorize the treatment. The Child Welfare Worker may provide medical information to those persons authorized by law. The parents/guardians are advised that pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 369, Health & Safety Code Section 123116 and Civil Code Section 56.106, the court hereby issues an order granting certain requests for release of information by the minor's mental health service provider. The parents/guardians may not authorize the release of mental health information about the minor unless the Court finds specifically that allowing the parents to have that authority would not be detrimental to the minor."

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827, CWWs are not allowed to provide copies of juvenile court records, including minute orders, to placement, service providers, or those not authorized under subdivision (a)(5).

Sincerely,

DONNA R. ZIEGLER
County Counsel

By

Victoria Wu
Assistant County Counsel