

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

OCT -2 2018

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
JUVENILE DIVISION

) **BLANKET ORDER NO. 23**
)
) **ORDER AUTHORIZING DISCLOSURE OF**
) **INFORMATION BETWEEN THE**
) **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL**
) **SERVICES AND THE FAMILY LAW**
) **COURT**
)
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)

It is policy of the State of California that family law courts are to protect the safety and well-being of children. To ensure that child abuse allegations made in the family law courts are fully investigated and that children are protected from harm, a family law judicial officer may request that the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services – Child Services Division (DPSS) conduct an investigation of child abuse allegations. (Fam. Code, § 3027; Welf. & Inst. Code, § 328.) Once the investigation is completed DPSS is required to report its findings to the court.

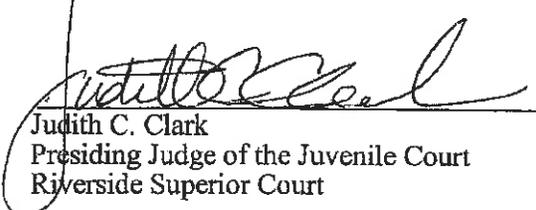
DPSS may permit its files and records relating to a child, who is the subject of a family law case involving custody or visitation issues, to be inspected by and to provide copies to specified persons if those persons are actively participating in the family law case. Accordingly, in addition to the judicial officer assigned to the family law case, the parent of the child, and an attorney for a party to the family law case are also entitled to inspect and receive copies of the DPSS investigation report. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 827.10, subd. (a)(1)-(3).)

1 Family Code § 3027 does not address distribution of the DPSS investigation report by the judicial
2 officer. Nevertheless, “[i]n the exercise of the court’s jurisdiction under the Family Code, if the course of
3 proceeding is not specifically indicated by statute or these rules, any suitable process or mode of
4 proceeding may be adopted by the court that is consistent with the spirit of the Family Code and these
5 rules.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 5.2(g).) Therefore, during a family law proceeding at which the DPSS
6 investigation report is considered by the judicial officer, the judicial officer may, in his or her discretion
7 provide a copy of the report to a parent, and the attorney for a parent.

8 Any documents or information obtained shall be maintained solely in the confidential portion
9 of the family law file. Any person in receipt of DPSS records shall not disclose orally or in writing
10 any information regarding the identity of any person making a report of suspected child abuse or
11 neglect. (Pen. Code § 11167, subd. (d).)

12 **Use of documents or information obtained under this order is limited to the family law**
13 **case for which the investigation report was prepared. The documents and information disclosed**
14 **under this order shall not be further disseminated, or released to members of the media or other**
15 **individuals not directly connected with the family law proceeding. No records or information**
16 **obtained under this order shall be made a part of any other court file that is open to the public,**
17 **unless by further court order or as allowed by law.**

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20 Dated: Sept. 17, 2018


Judith C. Clark
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Riverside Superior Court


Dale R. Wells
Supervising Judge of the Family Law Court
Riverside Superior Court