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

) BLANKET ORDER NO. 31  
)  
) ORDER AUTHORIZING THE  
) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION  
) FOR LINKAGES BETWEEN  
) RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
) SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISIONS FOR  
) CHILD WELFARE AND  
) SELF SUFFICIENCY

The Riverside County Department of Social Services is utilizing a program, Linkages, to permit two of its divisions, Children’s Services Division (DPSS-CSD) and its Self-Sufficiency Division (DPSS-SSD), to coordinate and partner in an integrated provision of family reunification, or family maintenance, services (services) to a parent engaged in a juvenile dependency proceeding. In general, the population assisted by CalWORKs, Welfare to Work and child welfare agencies overlaps. (<https://cfpic.org/the-linkages-project/toolkit/definitional-toolkit/about-linkages>) Linkages originated in approximately 2000, supported by the 2006 federal Administration of Children and Families. (<https://cfpic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/AB-Family-Engagement-Guidelines.pdf>) In 2009, the Child & Family Policy Institute of California reported Linkages was active in 32 California counties. (Ibid.) On November 23, 2009, The State of California – Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Social Services, issued an All County Information Notice No. 1-70-09, supporting the implementation of Linkages and described it as a “successful initiative.”

1 The Riverside County Department of Social Service's active participation in Linkages will  
2 broaden the scope of teamed decision-making to benefit both parents and their children. Linkages, by  
3 accessing integrated resources managed by DPSS-SSD, creates a bridge to overcome common barriers  
4 that may limit a parent's ability to work and safely provide for a child. A parent's participation in  
5 Linkages reduces duplication of services, coordinates services, reduces possible conflicting requirements  
6 and schedules and assists a parent in achieving economic self-sufficiency and family stability. Primarily,  
7 Linkages provides access to CalWORKs and/or Welfare to Work to eligible and qualifying parents in  
8 order to satisfy the components of a Child Welfare Case Plan, prescribed by Welfare and Institutions  
9 Code sections 358, subdivision (b) and 16501.1. By participating in Linkages, a parents' application to  
10 CalWORKs can be expedited. CalWORKs supports a parent's need for temporary housing, nutrition,  
11 mental and physical health treatment, employment and childcare issues.

12 According to Welfare and Institutions Code section 10850, all applications and records concerning  
13 any individual made or kept by any agency in connection with the administration of any form of public  
14 social services for which grants-in-aid are received by the agency shall be confidential. However,  
15 subdivision (b) allows disclosure of lists of applicants or recipients of public social services, to any other  
16 county welfare department, so long as the information is only used for purposes directly connected with  
17 the administration of public social services. Specific information exchanged between DPSS-CSD and  
18 DPSS-SSD will include information necessary to determine eligibility in, and access, to services. Specific  
19 information beyond this scope and about the parent will not be exchanged, shared, disclosed or  
20 disseminated. A juvenile dependency petition or a court report will not be shared in any instance.

21 A parent must provide written consent prior to being referred to Linkages. The consent informs the  
22 parent that:

- 23 • the parent can decline participation in Linkages without any disruption in the parent's  
24 juvenile dependency proceeding and/or provision of court-ordered services provided by  
25 DPSS-CSD;
- 26 • further dissemination of information beyond DPSS-CSD or DPSS-SSD requires further  
27 consent;

- 1 • information shared may be reviewed by the parent for accuracy and correction;
- 2 • the written consent may be revoked, and
- 3 • a copy of the consent must be provided to the parent upon request.

4 The written consent describes the exchanged, shared, disclosed or disseminated information and  
5 explains that information is used to determine eligibility in, and the satisfaction of ongoing participation,  
6 in the programs managed by DPSS-SSD and available to a parent by and through Linkages and Welfare  
7 to Work. This information includes, but is not limited to:

- 8 a) address, telephone number, social security number information
- 9 b) marital status and family composition details
- 10 c.) status of a juvenile dependency proceeding
- 11 d) status of employment
- 12 e) criminal history
- 13 f) citizenship and/or resident status
- 14 g) prior participation in CalWORKs
- 15 h) the child's or children's school attendance and immunization records

16 Notwithstanding the parent's consent and pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827,  
17 subdivision (a)(3), information maintained in a juvenile case file is confidential and not subject to  
18 disclosure unless authorized by the Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court hereby issues a standing order  
19 authorizing DPSS to disclose juvenile case file information, as described above, between and within its  
20 Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency Divisions for the purposes of providing a parent coordinated and  
21 integrated services. The exchange of information is necessary to determine eligibility and enrollment in  
22 stated and federal programs and is directly connected to the administration of public social services. This  
23 order is particularly necessary since the Child Welfare Case Plan is a confidential document filed in a  
24 juvenile dependency matter and outlines the services to be provided.

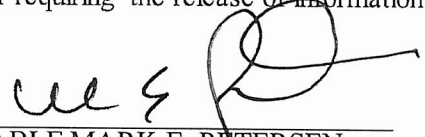
25 DPSS has created a means to ensure the safeguarding of information from improper disclosure.  
26 Specifically, a particular, protected electronic pathway and database transfers and manages all shared  
27 information. Designated, trained liaisons from DPSS-CSD and DPSS-SSD shall be the only

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persons able to receive, review and manage the shared information.

The use of any records or information obtained under this order is solely limited to use in providing a parent services by and through Linkages, CalWORKs and Welfare to Work programs. The records and information disclosed under this order shall not be released to any other entity or individual not directly connected to providing the parent services and/or engaged in teamed decision-making. No records or information obtained under this order shall be made any part of any other court file that is open to the public. Records and information obtained under this order are limited to use within the juvenile dependency court only, unless further court order or as allowed by law. The purpose of this order is to authorize the release of information; this is not an order requiring the release of information.

Dated: July 15, 2021



HONORABLE MARK E. PETERSEN  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Riverside Superior Court