Superior Court of California

County of Los Angeles
County of San Diego
County of San Bernardino
County of Riverside
County of Imperial
County of Orange

Administrative Order re:
Adoption of Southern California Intercounty Transfer Protocol

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

Pursuant to the mandate of subdivision (d), section 202, Welfare and Institutions Code, "to improve system performance in a vigorous and ongoing manner", commencing April 8, 2013, the Presiding Judges of the Juvenile Courts, of the Superior Courts, for the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and Orange, met and developed a protocol for the transfer of juvenile dependency and delinquency cases from one county to another in Southern California.

The Presiding Judges unanimously agreed that an intercounty transfer protocol must contain provisions:

a. To ensure that a transfer of jurisdiction is in the best interests of the minor;

b. For confirming the residence of the parent or legal guardian in the proposed receiving county;

c. For ensuring that the level of services required by the minor and/or family can be met in the proposed receiving county;

d. To provide for the expeditious and efficient transfer of cases in order to reduce any interruption of services to the minor and/or family, and permit the timely conduct of statutorily mandated hearings;

e. To set a transfer-in hearing in the receiving court, by the sending court, in order to expedite bringing the minor and family under the jurisdiction and supervision of the receiving court, and ordering the appearance of the minor and/or family in the receiving court;

f. To expedite the preparation and transfer of the Court's file from the sending county to the receiving county.

Concurrent with the development of an intercounty transfer protocol, the participating Juvenile Courts implemented a system for the secure electronic transfer of case files amongst the participating counties called "eCase eXchange, developed by the Riverside Superior Court. By providing for the instantaneous electronic exchange of case files, eCase eXchange results in considerable time and cost savings over the traditional mailing by U.S. Postal Service. In the development of an intercounty transfer protocol, the Presiding Judges incorporated the increased time and efficiencies gained by eCase eXchange, including by modifying the timelines for the setting of transfer-in hearings, stated in Rule 5.612, in order to reduce delays in bringing the parties under the jurisdiction of the receiving county and in the provision of services.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The Southern California Intercounty Transfer Protocol, attached hereto, is adopted by the Juvenile Courts, of the Superior Courts, for the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and Orange, and shall be applicable to the transfer of any dependency, delinquency and/or non-minor dependent cases between each county.

2. All parties, attorneys, agencies and organizations appearing before the Southern California Juvenile Courts shall comply with the provisions of the Southern California Intercounty Transfer Protocol.

3. In the event that the provisions of the Southern California Intercounty Transfer Protocol conflicts with the California Rules of Court, regarding the timelines and setting of transfer-in hearings, including Rule 5.612, the provisions of the Transfer Protocol shall control.

4. This Administrative Order, adopting the Southern California Intercounty Transfer Protocol, shall be as a pilot project, for six months, commencing on August 4, 2014. This Order shall *not* automatically expire at the conclusion of the pilot, but shall be reviewed by the Juvenile Courts at that time.

5. This order may be executed in subparts.

Date: 05/10/14

Michael Nash
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
County of Los Angeles

Date: 04/23/14

Carolyn M. Caietti
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
County of San Diego

Date: 05/07/14

Christopher B. Marshall
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
County of San Bernardino

Date: 04/24/14

F. Paul Dickerson III
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
County of Riverside

Date: 04/28/14

Christopher W. Yeager
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
County of Imperial

Date: 04/24/14

Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
County of Orange