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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN
JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

In the Matter of
Appointment of *Essential History* Court
Appointed Special Advocate ("EH-CASA")
in Dependency Cases

Standing Order No. 2018-02

Misc. No. JM 058158-00

An Essential History Court Appointed Special Advocate (hereafter referred to as "EH-CASA") is HEREBY APPOINTED for each minor who, as of the date of this order, (1) is under the age of 18 years and an adjudicated dependent child of the juvenile court (Welfare and Institutions Code section 300); (2) is living in out-of-home care under the supervision of the public child welfare services division of Kern County Department of Human Services; (3) is either taking psychotropic medication (defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 369.5, subd. (d)), [pursuant to the order of this Court (Welfare and Institutions Code section 369.5)] or is the subject of an

1 *Application for Psychotropic Medication* (Welfare and Institutions Code section 369.5,
2 Judicial Council of California, Form JV-220) pending before this Court as of the date of
3 this order; and (4) does not have a CASA (that is, a child advocate under the general
4 supervision of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kern County program)
5 currently assigned to his or her case.

6
7 Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kern County (hereafter "CASA") shall
8 assign one of its Advocates to serve as the appointed EH-CASA for each of the
9 above-described dependents. Each such assignment shall be made after receipt of
10 written notice from the Court or Kern County Department of Human services
11 identifying the minor as a child/youth/adolescent described by this order; such written
12 notice must include the minor's full name, date of birth, and the Kern County Superior
13 Court case number.

14
15 Within five business days after the assignment of the selected EH-CASA,
16 CASA shall file with the Court and serve on all parties a *Notice of Assignment*
17 *Pursuant to Standing Order Number 18-_____* in the affected proceeding that contains
18 the name of the selected EH-CASA and describes the assignment as having been
19 made pursuant to this order.

20 Each EH-CASA appointed hereunder shall serve under the general supervision
21 of the CASA program (located at 1717 Columbus Street, Bakersfield, California) and
22 under the specific supervision of the EH-CASA program staff supervisor assigned to
23 this case.

24
25 The role of the EH-CASA shall be to assist the Court in authorizing and
supervising any administration and use of psychotropic medications (defined in

1 Welfare and Institutions Code section 369.5, subd.(d)) for the subject minor by
2 locating and reporting information to this Court that is contained in the juvenile case
3 file (defined in California Rules of Court, rule 5:552, subd.(a)) maintained in the
4 dependency case to which the EH-CASA has been appointed hereunder and that is
5 relevant to the Court's authorization, supervision, modification, and/or termination of
6 any psychotropic medication(s) to the subject minor.
7

8 The scope of the EH-CASA's investigation shall extend to health-related
9 information affecting the subject minor that may describe child developmental
10 concerns and adverse childhood experiences of the minor as more generally
11 described in the "CASA Essential History Worksheet" attached hereto as Exhibit "A"
12 and incorporated herein. The results of the EH-CASA's investigation shall be
13 presented to this Court through the filing of a *Status Report Regarding the Essential*
14 *History Form* in each affected case. That report may also include recommendations to
15 the Court, including but not limited to, a recommendation that the affected minor be
16 appointed a CASA to advocate for the child more broadly in the affected proceeding.
17

18 The health history of any party and/or interested person in the proceeding other
19 than the minor that relates exclusively to that party/interested person is not within the
20 EH-CASA's scope of investigation and reporting, absent a specific order of this Court.

21 To enable the performance of these duties, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

22 1. The EH-CASA has the authority to review specific relevant documents
23 and interview parties involved in the subject case, as well as other persons having
24 significant information relating to the child, to the same extent as any other officer of
25 the court appointed to investigate proceedings on behalf of the Court (Welfare and

1 Institutions Code sec.103,subd.(h));

2 2. Upon presentation of the order of his or her appointment by the EH-
3 CASA, and upon specific court order and consistent with the rules of evidence, any
4 agency, hospital, school, organization, division or department of the state, physician
5 and surgeon, nurse, other health care provider, psychologist, psychiatrist, police
6 department, or mental health clinic shall permit the EH-CASA to inspect and copy any
7 records relating to the child involved in the case of appointment without the consent of
8 the child or parents (Welfare and Institutions Code section 107);
9

10 3. The EH-CASA shall not disclose any information gathered pursuant to
11 this order to anyone other than the Court, the public child welfare services social
12 worker(s) assigned to the subject case, the subject minor's attorney/guardian ad litem,
13 the subject minor's Indian tribe, or other attorneys representing parents or legal
14 guardians who are parties to subject action, unless specifically authorized by the Court
15 (Welfare and Institutions Code section 105);
16

17 4. The EH-CASA shall be given notice of, and shall be authorized to attend,
18 all conferences and administrative review hearings regarding the subject (Welfare and
19 Institutions Code section 106);

20 5. The EH-CASA shall be entitled to review the public child welfare
21 services file maintained by the Kern County Department of Human Services in
22 connection with the subject minor in the case to which the EH-CASA has been
23 appointed and receive all reports from the Kern County Department of Human
24 Services social worker that are served on the other parties to the affected dependency
25 proceeding;

1 6. The EH-CASA shall follow the direction and orders of the Court and shall
2 provide any other information to the Court as requested by the Court;

3 7. If ordered to appear by the Court, the EH-CASA volunteer shall appear
4 and participate at any hearing held before the Court; and

5 8. The EH-CASA shall serve in this capacity for no more than 90 days from
6 the date of the Notice of Assignment filed pursuant to this order in each affected case,
7 with the EH-CASA's appointment terminating on the 91st day after said date without
8 further Court order; provided, however, that the Court may extend the EH-CASA's
9 period of service by further written order, upon application duly made.
10

11 Attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein is a copy of CASA of
12 Kern County's grievance procedure that covers grievances by any person against a
13 volunteer or CASA program staff and grievances by a volunteer against a CASA
14 program or program staff.
15

16 DATED: Aug 20, 2018



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18
19 _____
20 CHARLES R. BREHMER
21 PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

22 **[Attach copy of EH worksheet to each order and grievance policy]**
23
24
25