

APR 14 2022

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By Nell Simpson Deputy
Nell Simpson

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

APPOINTMENT AND RELIEF OF
COUNSEL IN DEPENDENCY CASES

STANDING ORDER

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, for any unrepresented party in each juvenile dependency matter filed hereafter, the following appointments of counsel are deemed to have been made upon the filing of any new Welfare and Institutions Code¹ section 300 or 342 or 388 petition. This appointment will not remain in effect where the client fails to appear at the detention/initial hearing and the client's presence is not waived by counsel.

A. Appointment of Counsel and CAPTA Guardian *ad Litem* for Child/Children

The Judicial Council has entered into a contract with Children's Law Center of California (CLC) for the representation of all Los Angeles County children and non-minor dependents in dependency proceedings. Effective April 1, 2022, in accordance with section 317 and California Rules of Court, rule 5.534, CLC is appointed to represent each child who is the subject of a

¹ All further reference to statutes is to the Welfare and Institutions Code.

1 section 300, 303(c), 342, or 388 dependency petition on the date the petition is filed with the Los
2 Angeles Superior Court. This order also provides for appointment of CLC on behalf of minors or
3 former CLC clients whose children are the subject of the above noted petitions.
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5 Pursuant to section 317(d)², 317(e)³ and 317(f)⁴ the Court hereby acknowledges CLC's
6 attorneys and their agents (social work investigators, social workers, case managers, and peer
7 advocates) need to have confidential communication with their client(s) in preparation for court
8 proceedings. After the filing of a petition with the Los Angeles Superior Court and upon
9 presentation of CLC identification, CLC's attorneys and agents are entitled to access to their
10 clients and client information to the fullest extent permitted by law.
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12 CLC shall notify the Court if it assigns the representation of a child for whom a conflict
13 of interest exists to conflict counsel. Notice of the assignment may be made orally at the
14 detention/initial hearing, or next scheduled hearing, or by written notice filed with the Court at
15 the earliest opportunity. Upon the oral announcement or the filing of written notice of the
16 assignment, the conflict counsel selected by CLC shall be recognized as counsel of record for the
17 child.
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20 ² Welfare and Institutions Code § 317(d) states in pertinent part: Counsel shall represent the parent,
21 guardian, child, or nonminor dependent at the detention hearing and at all subsequent proceedings before the
22 juvenile court. Counsel shall continue to represent the parent, guardian, child, or nonminor dependent unless
relieved by the court upon the substitution of other counselor for cause.

23 ³ Welfare and Institutions Code § 317(e) states in pertinent part: If the child is four years of age or older,
24 counsel shall interview the child to determine the child's wishes and assess the child's well-being and shall advise
25 the court of the child's wishes. ... Counsel shall investigate the interests of the child beyond the scope of the
juvenile proceeding, and report to the court other interests of the child that may need to be protected by the
institution of other administrative or judicial proceedings.

26 ⁴ Welfare and Institutions Code § 317(f) states in pertinent part: counsel shall have access to all records
27 with regard to the child maintained by a health care facility...health care providers...a physician and surgeon or
other health practitioner...or a childcare custodian...Notwithstanding any other law, counsel shall be given access
to all records relevant to the case that are maintained by state or local public agencies.
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