



CDSS

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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Community Care Licensing Division – Statewide Children's Residential Program
744 P Street, MS 8-3-54 Sacramento, CA 95814



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

October 24, 2011

The Honorable Steve White, Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 Ninth Street, Department 47
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Judge White:

This letter is to follow up on the Sacramento County Grand Jury Report 2010-2011 Final Report, pages 81 to 84 which was released prior to receipt of my letter to you dated April 22, 2011 (enclosed). Unfortunately, the report indicates that the California Department of Social Services did not respond to the Grand Jury request for information regarding the 30 day limitation for children under the age of six to remain in shelter care.

As stated in my previous response, I would like the Grand Jury to know that the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), with jurisdiction in the matter, did not discontinue the granting of exceptions to allow children under age six to remain in shelter care. The CCLD continues to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis and although limited, there are situations that warrant the granting of exceptions. Exceptions may be granted under certain conditions and if there is a court order explaining a compelling need to retain a child in shelter care beyond the 30 day limitation. One example would be when the assessment of the child's needs has not been completed and additional time is necessary. Another reason could be when a child under age six has a sibling where the placement objective is to keep the sibling set together.

In addition, in subsequent discussions with David Ballard, Executive Director of the Children's Receiving Home, he reported that he is in agreement with CCLD's approach on reviewing the requests for exceptions on a case-by-case basis. We understand that Mr. Ballard has subsequently clarified his position on the matter in his response to the Grand Jury Report.

I trust that this information and my previous letter have clarified the issue for you. However, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 657-2429 if you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further. You may also contact Mei Yuk Kung, Program Chief, at (916) 654-0118.

Sincerely,

SERGIO RAMIREZ
Program Administrator
Statewide Children's Residential Program

Enclosure

c: Becky Castaneda, Grand Jury Coordinator
Karen Grace-Kaho, Foster Care Ombudsman