

August 22, 2011

Honorable Steve White, Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 9th St., Dept. 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Judge White,

Please accept this letter as the official response of the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento to issues raised in the Sacramento County Grand Jury 2010-2011 Final Report, pages 81 to 83. This letter is also sent pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05 mandating our response and due you by September 30, 2011.

In brief the issue raised on our behalf in the Grand Jury report related to the mandate that children under the age of six years old in our care needing to be discharged after a 30 day limit. Although well intended, this 30 day limit was seen as being counterproductive in certain cases. Those cases could include if the court cases regarding the children had not been resolved during that time, if the home-study on the potential destination of children had not been completed, or if the 30 day limit further separated children under six from their siblings continuing in our care who were not subject to the limit. In each of these cases the 30 day limit would have in fact been harmful and necessitate a further, additional placement of the child when the overall goal is to minimize such disruptions. The Grand Jury report was reflective of this issue and sought to seek a resolution of this among ourselves as a children's shelter and State of California Community Care Licensing (CCL).

I am pleased to state that the issue raised in the report has resulted in systems improvement. Our partners at CCL at the State level have signaled a willingness to address this issue on a case by case, as needed basis, which in my opinion is the preferable outcome. Although not codified as strongly as in the previous waiver or exemption system, CCL's willingness to hear us out in those cases where a brief extension might be needed in the best interests of a child is an appropriate and acceptable outcome. I am pleased with how this resolution has taken place.

We thank the Grand Jury for their report and as well, we thank Community Care Licensing for their willingness to work this issue out to a satisfactory conclusion. If you have any further questions please contact me at dballard@crhkids.org and let me know if I can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Ballard, LCSW, CEO
Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento