

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-26

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Resource Family's Information in Court Reports

There are regulations and laws that govern the release of confidential information for resource and prospective adoptive families, including information related to their Resource Family Approval (RFA). DCFS has the responsibility to provide child safety and well-being information to Court to assist them in making the necessary and appropriate findings and orders. In order to ensure that staff consistently and appropriately adhere to the above considerations, this FYI reminds staff of the following:

- The Resource Family Recruitment and Approval Division (RFRAD) or Resource Family Support and Permanency Division (RFSPD) staff are responsible for providing information for the Court regarding an applicant, resource family, or adoptive parent to the staff writing the court report; or if ordered by Court, will directly provide that information to Court
 - RFRAD/ RFSPD staff will provide information that the CSW will attach to or include in the court report.
 - For [WIC 366.26 reports](#) when the plan or recommendation is adoption, the assigned RFSPD CSW, is responsible for writing the court report information pertaining to the prospective adoptive parent(s), including a summary of their criminal and child welfare history and status of the adoption process.
 - If Court has requested specific information that is not included with the information provided by the RFRAD/ RFSPD CSW, the CSW writing the court report must first consult with the RFRAD/ RFSPD CSW, who will provide the information as appropriate.
 - Staff must maintain on-going communication and consultation with the RFRAD/ RFSPD staff and as necessary, county counsel.
 - Recent case law clarified that minor attorneys are entitled to receive a copy of their client's case file, including any RFA-related information in the child's case file, upon request pursuant to sections 317(f) and 827. When such request is filed and received, CSWs shall work with county counsel and follow procedures outlined by current [policy](#).

RFRAD/ RFSPD staff are generally able to provide essential information for the court report including but not limited to the following:

- RFA approval status, anticipated dates of completion; denial and reasons for denial
- Concerns impacting the approval process including a summary of their criminal and child welfare history; and/or exemption information

DCFS continues to enhance RFA/adoption-related communication process and tools, and pertinent policies will be revised in the future to reflect the above guidelines.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov