

Juvenile Records Under WIC § 827 and Related Laws:

What Can You Get and
Who Can You Tell?

Overview

I. WIC § 827 Overview

II. Related confidentiality and disclosure laws and their
intersection with § 827

III. Apply your knowledge - Case Scenarios



All information contained in this presentation is for information purposes only and is not legal advice. All attorneys are reminded to complete their own legal research.

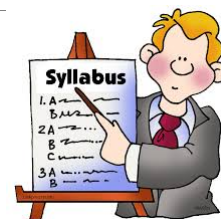


Part I - 827 Basics

What is a Juvenile Case File?

How does WIC § 827 protect juvenile records?

- Who
- How
- What Info
- From Whom
- Use and Re-Disclosure



What Is A Juvenile Case File?

(Welf. & Inst. Code § 827)

Juvenile case law is defined differently by:

- Statute
- Case Law
- Rules of Court

Discussion Points: What Is A Juvenile Case File?

- **Is a private adoption or an emancipation file considered a juvenile case file?**
 - What if the emancipation proceeding came from a dependency proceeding?

- **Is a video recording part of the juvenile case file?**
 - If it is submitted into evidence in court?
 - Is a juvenile hall recording/surveillance part of the juvenile case file?

- **What if there is no existing delinquency/dependency case?**
 - Are the CWA/Probation files confidential?

How Does WIC § 827 Protect A Juvenile Case File?

- It restricts access to juvenile case files, documents contained therein, and information relating to those documents.

- It restricts the type of information released.

- It restricts the use of the information relating to those files and documents.

The Who Under WIC § 827

- Who is entitled to the records without a court order?
 - Who can inspect only vs. who can inspect and copy?

- Who is not entitled to the records without a court order?

Parties Who Are Entitled to Inspect & Copy Juvenile Case File

- **The minor's parents or guardian (WIC § 827(a)(1)(D))**
 - What if parental rights have been terminated?

- **Attorneys for the parties, hearing officers, probation officers & law enforcement officers actively participating in criminal or juvenile proceedings involving the child (WIC § 827(a)(1)(E))**
 - Who are attorneys for parties?
 - What does actively participating in criminal or juvenile proceedings mean?
 - What does involving the child mean?
 - Is a U.S. Probation Officer a probation officer under WIC § 827(a)(1)(E)? (See WIC § 831)

Parties Who Are Entitled to Inspect & Copy Juvenile Case File

- **Court personnel (WIC § 827(a)(1)(A))**
 - What does court personnel mean?
 - Is CASA an entitled party?

- **County Counsel (WIC § 827(a)(1)(F))**
 - Which county counsel is entitled?
 - Is a county counsel in a division other than dependency (e.g., civil) an entitled party?

Parties Who Are Entitled To Only Inspect Juvenile Case File

- **Superintendent of a school district (or his or her designee) where the minor is enrolled (WIC § 827(a)(1)(G))**
 - Who is a superintendent or a designee?
- **Certain persons involved in family law proceedings (WIC § 827(a)(1)(L))**
 - Which persons are entitled?
 - What type of family law proceeding?
- **Certain persons involved in probate proceedings (WIC § 827(a)(1)(K))**
 - Which persons are entitled?
 - What type of probate proceeding?
 - Why is probate judge excluded?

Parties Entitled to Inspect & Copy Child Welfare Agency (CWA) Files (WIC § 827.10)

- Judge, commissioner, other hearing officer assigned to the family law or probate case
- Parent of legal guardian of the minor
- An attorney for a party to the family law or probate case
- A family court mediator
- A court-appointed investigator
- Counsel appointed for the minor in family law case

What's The Difference Between Inspecting & Copying?

■ What does it mean to inspect a juvenile case file?

- What is the definition?
 - **California Public Records Inspection Act** - The right to inspect and the right to copy public records may be coextensive. (*See Rosenthal v. Hansen* (1973) 34 Cal. App. 3d 754, 759 (1973).)
 - **WIC § 827** - The right to inspect juvenile records “does not include the automatic right to copy documents in the file.” (*In re Gina S.* (2005) 133 Cal.App.4th 1074, 1082; *see also* 85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 194 (2002) [right granted in section 827 to inspect file does not include authority to copy without first obtaining a court order].)
- How do you inspect an electronic court file?
- What is your local practice/definition? (e.g. Los Angeles County Superior Court Local Rule 7.2(a)(3))

■ What does it mean to copy?

- Is oral communication the same as making copies of a document?

■ What is your county's local practice?

The How Under WIC § 827

■ How does an entitled party receive records?

- Check your local practice (see handout, e.g., some jurisdictions use a document called a “Declaration In/For Support of Access to a Juvenile Case File.”)

■ How does a non-entitled party receive records?

- File form JV-570.

Judicial Authority

Unless statutorily designated as a party entitled to inspect or copy the juvenile case file, the Juvenile Court has **exclusive authority** to determine whether the records may be released AND the extent to which juvenile case records can be disclosed.

(In re Elijah S. (2005) 125 Cal.App.4th 1532.)



Juvenile Case Files May Not Be Obtained By a Subpoena

- Juvenile case records “cannot be obtained by a subpoena.” (*Lorenzo P. v. Superior Court* (1988) 197 Cal.App.3d 607, 611.)
- California Rules of Court, Rule 5.552(b)(4) states that “juvenile case files may not be obtained or inspected by civil or criminal subpoena.”
- May not sign a release to authorize inspection/copying of juvenile records.
- What if the juvenile case file is sealed? How can it be obtained?

How Non-Entitled Parties Access Records: File Form JV-570

JV-570 Request for Disclosure of Juvenile Case File

If you are requesting a court order to obtain the juvenile case file of a child who is alive, fill out all items on this form, and file it with the court. You must also fill out and file Proof of Service—Request for Disclosure (form JV-569). If you are a member of the public requesting the juvenile case file of a child who is deceased, you can:

- Fill out items 1-4 and 7 on this form and file it with the court. You must then provide a copy of this form to the Custodian of Records of the county child welfare agency, who will then provide notice of this request.
- Do not complete the form and request the juvenile case file from the child welfare agency under Welfare and Institutions Code section 10850.4.

1 Your name: _____
 Relationship to child (if any): _____
 Street address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone number: _____
 Lawyer (if any) (name, address, telephone numbers, and State Bar number): _____

2 Name of child (if known): _____

3 Child's date of birth (if known): _____

4 a. A petition regarding the child in (2) has been filed under
 Welfare and Institutions Code section 300
 Welfare and Institutions Code section 601
 Welfare and Institutions Code section 602 or
 b. I believe the child in (2) died as a result of abuse or neglect. Approximate date of death: _____
If you checked box b, you may skip items 5 and 6.

5 The records I want are: (Describe in detail. Attach more pages if you need more space.)
 Item 5 REQUIRED - State in detail the exact records you are requesting and the reason you believe these records exist. If you do not know exactly the records you want, state the type of records you are requesting (e.g. psychiatric, medical, or education records). State whether you want to a) look at the records or b) receive copies of the records or c) want to disclose them to other persons. If you need more space to write, please attach form MC-25 (see attached).

6 The reasons for this request are:
 a. Civil court case pending in (name of county): _____ Hearing date: _____
 Case number: _____
 b. Criminal court case pending in (name of county): _____ Hearing date: _____
 Case number: _____
 c. Juvenile court case pending in (name of county): _____ Hearing date: _____
 Case number: _____
 d. Other (specify): _____ Hearing date: _____
 Case number: _____

7 I need the records because: (Describe in detail. Attach more pages if you need more space.)
 Item 7 REQUIRED - State in detail the reasons you are requesting the records and why the records are relevant to your request. If you need these records for another court case, you must complete items 6 and 7, stating the issues, allegations or dispute in the other case that the child's records will be used to address.

8 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in this form is true and correct. This means that if I lie on this form, I am guilty of a crime.
 Date: _____
 Type or print your name: _____ Sign your name: _____

Annotations:
 - "Must be completed" (red box) above "Your name:"
 - "Fill in name and address of the court to whom you are making the request." (red box) above "Superior Court of California, County of:"
 - "Provide the case number or write 'do not know'" (red box) above "Case Number:"
 - "Item 1 REQUIRED - Provide the name, address and telephone number of the person requesting records. Attorneys must provide bar number" (red box) above "Lawyer (if any)..."
 - "Item 2 REQUIRED - Full name of child(ren) whose records are being sought" (red box) above "Name of child..."
 - "Provide date of birth or state 'do not know'" (red box) above "Child's date of birth..."
 - "State known cases or state 'do not know'" (red box) above "A petition regarding the child..."
 - "If you need these records for another court case, include the court, case number and future hearing date." (red box) above "The reasons for this request are:"
 - "REQUIRED: Completed form must be signed and dated." (red box) above "Date:"

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/formnumber.htm>
 Must file with JV-571-575 & JV-578

Recap: How To Access Records

Attorney assigned to the case

- Discovery request to opposing counsel

Entitled to access

- Check your local practice

Not entitled to access

- File a JV-570

What Information Is Protected Under WIC § 827

- Is the existence of a juvenile case file confidential?
- What information do entitled parties receive?
- What information do non-entitled parties receive?

WIC § 827: Limits On Access To Information

Limit on disclosure of information that is confidential or privileged:

If information in a juvenile case file “is privileged or confidential pursuant to any other state law or federal law or regulation, the requirements of that state law or federal law or regulation prohibiting or limiting release of the juvenile case file or any portions thereof...shall prevail.”

(Welf. & Inst. § 827(a)(3)(A); Cal. Rules Court 5.552(h))

Other Layers of Protection: Confidential Information

■ Medical Records

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)
- Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA)

■ Education Records

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- California Education Code section 49075

■ Substance Abuse Treatment Records

- Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act (CAAPTR)
- Health and Safety Code section 11845.5

■ Mental Health Records

- Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) Privileged Information
- Evidence Code section 900 et seq. (e.g. attorney-client privilege, physician-patient privilege, psychiatrist-patient privilege)

■ Child Abuse Reports and Mandated Reporters

- Penal Code section 11167.5

■ Personal Identification

- California Vehicle Code

What If Petitioner Wants Information In the Juvenile Case File That Has An Extra Layer Of Protection ?

“Unless a person is... [*entitled to inspect or receive copies of records under 827*] and is entitled to access under the other state law or federal law or regulation without a court order, all those seeking access, pursuant to other authorization, to portions of, or information relating to the contents of, juvenile case files protected under another state law or federal law or regulation, shall petition the juvenile court.”

FILE A JV-570

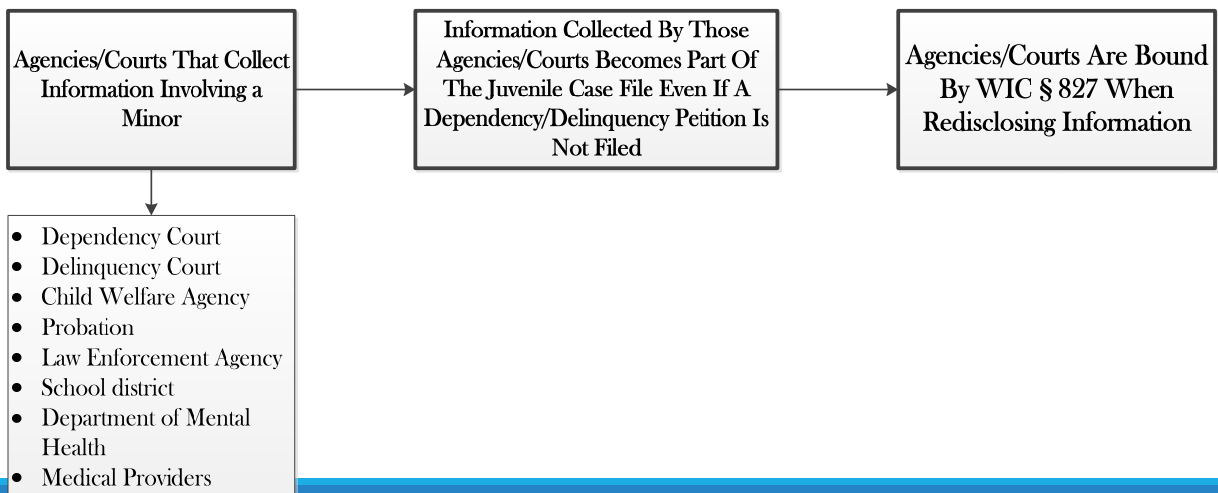
(Welf. & Inst. § 827(a)(3)(A); see Cal. Rules Court 5.552(h))

Confidential Information → Redact

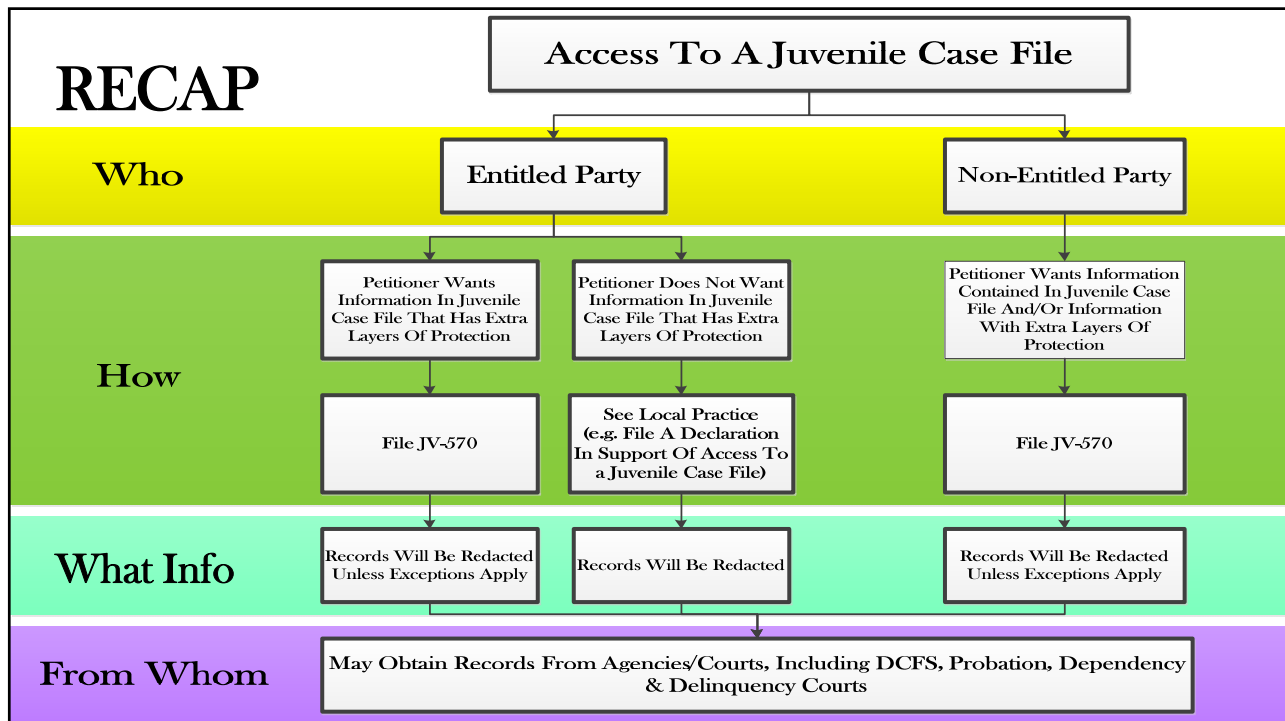
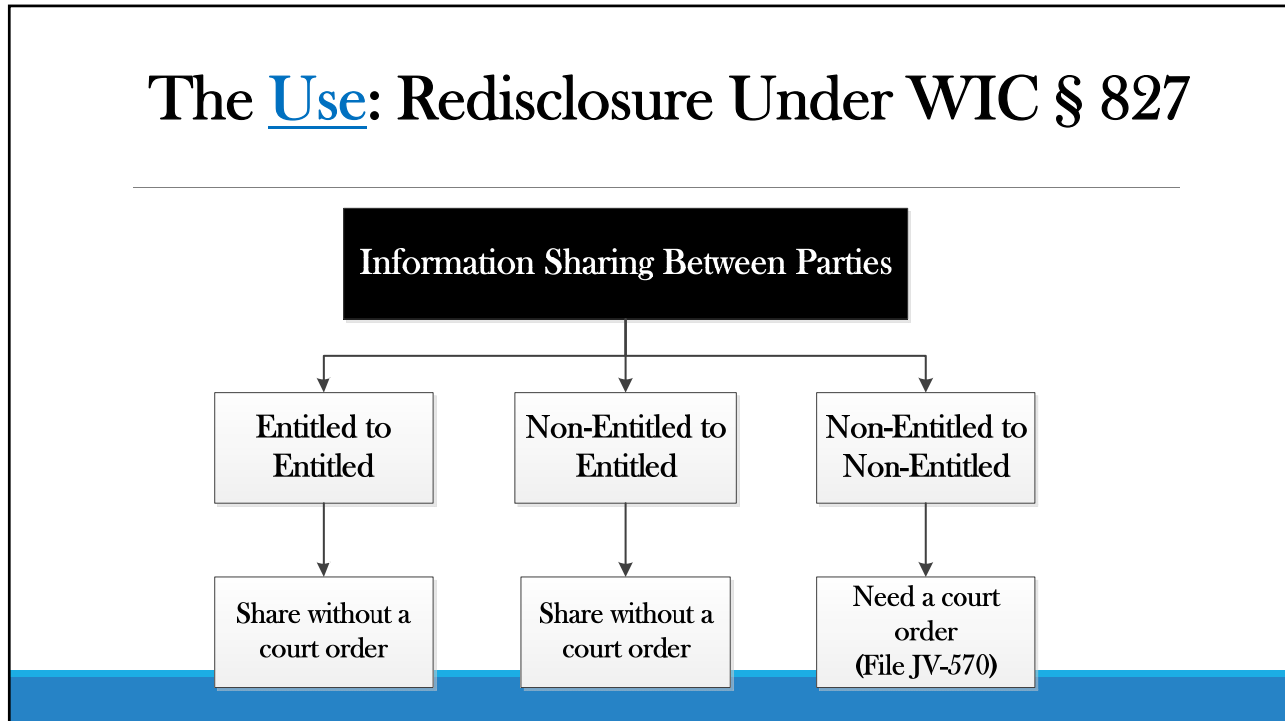
You may receive redacted records.



From Whom Can Petitioner Obtain Records Under WIC § 827?



The Use: Redisdisclosure Under WIC § 827



Recap: When Is A Court Order Necessary?

- ❑ Entity or individual seeking access is not entitled under 827
- ❑ Entity or individual seeking access is entitled but wants authority to re-disclose
- ❑ Entity or individual seeking access is entitled but wants access to confidential, privileged or otherwise protected information that it does not have a right to under applicable law

Part II – Related Confidentiality Laws

I. When protected information is in the file

II. Common confidentiality laws that impact access to records

- Restricting access
- Authorizing access “notwithstanding 827”

III. Who Decides?



Information That May Be In The Court/Child Welfare/Probation Agency File *

Information <u>Created</u> By Agency	Information <u>Collected</u> By Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child abuse investigations • Police records • Caseworker notes • Court reports • Family information • Caregiver info • Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health/mental health records • Education records • Substance abuse records • Caregiver reports • Other

* Not intended as an inclusive or exclusive list of all possible information



Possible Education Information in a Juvenile Case File *

Information That May Be In Juvenile Case File	Sensitive Information That May Be In Juvenile Case File
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades • Testing • Attendance • Demographics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplinary records • IEP records • Evaluation results • Health/mental health information

* Not intended as an inclusive or exclusive list



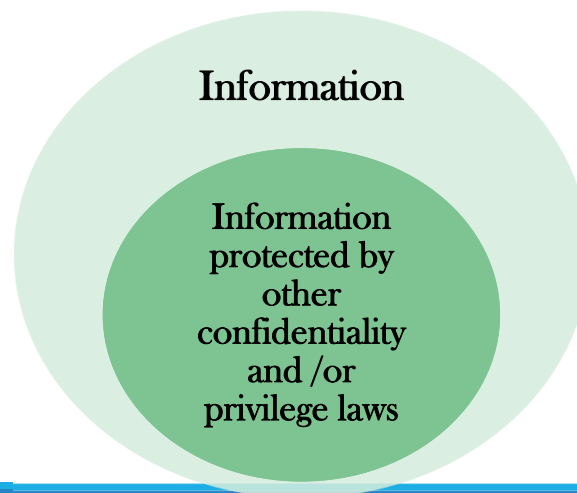
Possible Health Information in a Juvenile Case File *

Information That May Be Found In Juvenile Case File	Sensitive Information That May Be In Juvenile Case File
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunizations • Health history • Medication history • Chronic illness • Hospitalizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor consent/ Sensitive service information • STD/ Pregnancy • Counseling records • Psychotherapy notes • Substance abuse treatment records on parents • Substance treatment records on minor • Psychotropic medication

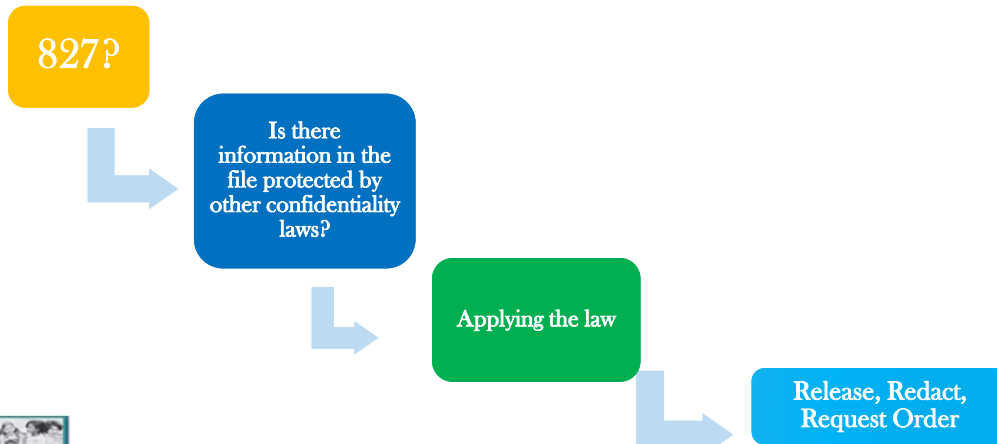
* Not intended as an inclusive or exclusive list



Juvenile Case File - Additional Protections



Addressing Confidential And Protected Information In A JCF: When To Release And When To Redact



Example 1: Family Law Attorney and Mandated Child Abuse Reports

Family law attorney wants access to original child abuse reports in Child Welfare Agency custody that led to initial investigation of attorney's client.

Does family law attorney get to inspect or receive copies of this particular information?



Confidentiality Of Child Abuse Reports & Mandated Reporters

Child Abuse Reports:

Penal Code 11167.5 strictly limits disclosure of reports of suspected abuse and the information contained in the report.

Child Abuse Reporter (Mandated Reporter):

Reports made by a reporter to a child protection agency per PC § 11167(d)(1) may be **disclosed only** to limited list of individuals or pursuant to a court order.

The name of the reporting party may not be further disclosed.

Family law and probate attorneys are not on this list.

Example 1: Release Mandated Report To Family Attorney?

827?

- Family law attorney is entitled to inspect the child welfare agency file

Is there information in the file protected by other confidentiality laws?

- Mandated reports of abuse protected by Penal 11167.5

Applying the law

- Not allowed access to abuse report.
Must redact absent court order



Example 2: Substance Abuse Treatment Information In Probation File And Mom

Court required 16-year-old youth to attend substance abuse treatment as a probation condition. Youth signed a release authorizing the treatment program to share the records with the probation agency. Mom now wants to access the probation file and see if her child is attending the program.

Does mom get to inspect this particular information?



Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act 42 C.F.R. Part 2

- CAAPTR restricts the disclosure and use of patient identifying information about individuals in substance abuse treatment
- Strict limits on disclosure absent written authorization from patient or court order that meets certain standards
- Patients, including minor patients 12 and older, sign release for records.
- Strict limits on re-disclosure
- Doesn't apply to records from every agency

See CFCC Brief, *Sharing Information about Children in Foster Care: Substance Abuse Treatment Information*



Example 2: Release Substance Records To Mom From Probation File?

827?

- Mom is entitled to inspect the probation file



Is there information in the file protected by other confidentiality laws?

- S.A. treatment records protected by CAAPTR



Applying the law

- Not allowed access to treatment information unless authorization says so. **Must redact absent specialized court order or signed authorization.**



Discussion Points:

- What is a compliant authorization? (See 42 CFR 2.31)
 - How specific must an authorization be regarding who, to whom, what, and how much
- Sharing information with the court or criminal justice (42 CFR 2.35)

Example 3: Child's Mental Health Counseling Information And Caregiver

Fourteen-year-old dependent is receiving regular counseling. Per authorization form signed by youth, therapist shares regular updates regarding attendance and progress with caseworker and sometimes includes quotes and detailed notes regarding comments and issues that arise in therapy session. Caseworker wants to share all this information with the caregiver.

May caseworker receive all information?

May caregiver receive all information?



Mental Health Information

Two independent legal barriers may limit disclosure and re-disclosure of mental health information:

- Confidentiality Statutes
- Provider-Patient Privilege



Mental Health Confidentiality Statutes

Both federal and state law restrict disclosure of mental health information. Which laws?

- The Privacy Rule under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) (45 C.F.R. § 160 and 164.)
- The California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA) (Civ. Code, § 56.05 et seq.)
- The California Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5328 et seq.)



Mental Health Confidentiality Statutes

- Generally, HIPAA, LPS and CMIA require signed authorization or court order before a provider may release information to child welfare, probation or courts for unrestricted use.
- May require minor's signature if minor is 12 or older.
- Some exceptions authorize or require providers to disclose for specific purposes, even absent signed release or court order. For example:
- Re-disclosure limits may apply.

See CFCC Brief, *Sharing Information about Children in Foster Care: Mental Health Care Information* for more information



Physician-Patient And Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege

- The privilege protects confidential communications between the child and therapist and details of therapy. (Evid 1014)
- Dependent child holds privilege, if capable of informed consent
 - Presumed capable at age 12 yrs. (WIC sec. 317(f))
 - Belongs to the client, not the professional. (Daniel C.H.)

The privilege stands without an affirmative need for the child or the child's attorney to openly assert it.



Physician-Patient And Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege

Courts have held that counseling in the context of dependency and delinquency proceedings serves a dual purpose:

- Treatment
- Disclosure of information from which reasoned recommendations and decisions regarding the child's welfare can be made.

See *In re Kristine W.*, 94 C.A.4th 521, *In re Mark L.* 94 Cal. App. 4th 573, *In re Pedro M.*, 81 C.A.4th 550

The privilege does not preclude a therapist from giving **circumscribed information** to accomplish the **information-gathering goal** of therapy.



Exceptions To Evidentiary Privilege

Include:

- Patient dangerous to self or other (Evid. Code § 1024)
- Court ordered Psych. Evaluations (Evid. Code § 1017)



Example 3: Question One - Disclosure From Therapist To Child Welfare?

Fourteen-year-old dependent is receiving regular counseling. Per authorization form signed by youth, therapist shares regular updates regarding attendance and progress with caseworker and sometimes includes quotes and detailed notes regarding comments and issues that arise in therapy session.

May therapist disclose this information to the caseworker under privilege and confidentiality law?



Example 3: Question Two - Disclosure From Child Welfare To Caregiver?

Therapist shares regular updates regarding attendance and progress with caseworker and sometimes includes quotes and detailed notes regarding comments and issues that arise in therapy session. Caseworker wants to share all this information with the caregiver.

May caseworker disclose this information to the caregiver under privilege and confidentiality law?



Disclosure To Caregivers Under WIC § 827?

- Caregiver is “person or agency providing treatment or supervision to child” and thus has right of inspection of nonprivileged information.
- WIC § 16010 requires child protective agency to share health and education summary with the caregiver after placement.
- WIC 16010(d) allows disclosures of certain info to prospective caregivers.



HEP and WIC §16010

Generally, the **caregiver may obtain**

- School records and information
(WIC § 16010(a) & (c) & 42 USCS 675(1)(C) & (5)(D))
- Medical records and information that are a part of the health summary or related to treatment
(WIC §§ 16010(a) & (c), 16010.5 & 42 USCS 675(1)(C) & (5)(D))
- Court information: Visitation with parents & siblings; name, phone, fax, and email of assigned CSW/SCSW, child's attorney, and CASA; child's needs and services; copy of birth certificate, etc. (WIC § 16010.4(e))
- SB 233 (effective 1/1/18) will allow caregivers, including FFA and STRTP staff to access pupil records including parent portals and conferences, even if they are not the Educational Rights Holder.
- No access to the IEP unless the Education Rights Holder

Example 3: Caregiver Access To Full Therapy Record In JCF?

827?

- Caregiver is entitled to inspect CW information

Other confidentiality laws?

- CMIA and LPS
- Evidentiary Privilege

Applying the law

- HEP yes but detailed and privileged information no. **Must redact therapy notes absent court order or youth's authorization.**



Discussion Points:

- **What mental health information?**
 - 'Circumscribed information'?
 - Medication information?
 - Counseling notes?

- **What is a compliant authorization under confidentiality statutes?**
 - How specific must an authorization be regarding who, to whom, what, and how much
 - Who signs?

- **Privilege: Sharing information with the court versus sharing to coordinate care**

Other Content Commonly Protected By Additional Confidentiality Laws?

Includes but is not limited to:

- Medical information
- Education records
- Non-minor dependent files
- Juvenile Police Records



Medical Confidentiality

Both federal and state law restrict disclosure of health information. Which laws?

- **The Privacy Rule under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)** (45 C.F.R. § 160 and 164.)
- **The California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA)** (Civ. Code, § 56.05 et seq.)
- Other laws may apply depending on type of service, funding source, type of provider (e.g. Title X family planning)
- **The California Evidence Code and evidentiary privilege** (Evid. Code, §§ 990 et seq. and 1010 et seq.)



Medical Confidentiality

- Generally, HIPAA and CMIA require signed authorization or court order before a provider may release information to child welfare, probation or courts for unrestricted use.
- Some exceptions authorize or require providers to disclose for specific purposes, even absent signed release or court order. For example:
- Some exceptions authorize or require providers to disclose for specific purposes, even absent signed release or court order. For example:
- Re-disclosure limits may apply.

See CFCC Brief, *Sharing Information about Children in Foster Care: Health Care Information*



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act 20 USC 1232g and California Education Code

- Both restrict the disclosure of education records from educational agencies and institutions
- Limits on disclosure absent written authorization or court order
- Some exceptions authorize disclosure for specific purposes, absent signed release or court order. For example, may disclose to an agency caseworker who has the right to access a student's case plan when agency or is legally responsible for the care and protection of the student
- Limits on re-disclosure in some cases

See CFCC Brief, *Sharing Information about Children in Foster Care: Substance Abuse Treatment Information*



Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) Files

WIC § 362.5 created special rules regarding the records for an NMD. Access is **limited** to the following:

- Court personnel
- The DA ONLY if the NMD is also a delinquent ward
- The NMD
- The NMD's attorney
- Judges and other hearing officers actively participating in juvenile proceedings involving the NMD
- DCFS and Probation
- CDSS
- County Counsel
- Certain personnel of the State Department of Social Services

NOTE: NMD's parent(s) and attorney may only access file if still receiving family reunification services.

Juvenile Police Records

WIC § 827.9 restricts disclosure of juvenile police records.

Law enforcement agencies may only disclose to a very limited scope of entities absent a court order.

Disclosure To Federal Officials WIC § 831

Federal agencies/officials must file a JV-570. May not obtain records without a court order, including information such as:

- Name of the minor
- Date or place of birth
- Immigration status (maintained by the court, child welfare agency, probation, and/or law enforcement agency)

Confidentiality Laws Authorizing Or Requiring Release

Examples of a few of the “Notwithstanding 827” laws



Release And Re-Release To Former Dependents And Wards

“Notwithstanding Section 827 and in order to assist with establishing eligibility for programs or services,... the State Department of Social Services may provide to a person who was previously adjudged a dependent or ward of the juvenile court...any information necessary to provide verification that the person was formerly a dependent or ward of the juvenile court and placed in foster care.”
(WIC § 826.8)



Copies To WIC §§ 18951 and 18961.5 Multidisciplinary Team Members

Section 827 authorizes “[m]embers of children’s multidisciplinary teams, persons, or agencies providing treatment or supervision of the minor” to *inspect but not receive copies* of information in the child welfare agency file. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 827(a)(1)(K), (a)(5).)

Sections 830, 830.1 and 18961.7 allow child welfare agencies to *release copies* of information protected by section 827 to members of multidisciplinary teams created under sections 18951 and 18961.7 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, notwithstanding the limits in section 827.

See Appendix C to CFCC Brief, *Sharing Information about Children in Foster Care: Child Welfare Agency Files*, for more on Multidisciplinary teams



Disclosure to Child and Family Teams WIC § 832

Section 16501 of the Welfare and Institutions Code encourages the use of “child and family teams” as part of child welfare service provision and defines “child and family team” for this purpose.

Section 832 of the Welfare and Institutions Code addresses sharing of information and records among members of a 16501 “child and family team.”

Section 832 requires the child and family team to obtain the appropriate authorizations to release information to team members and states that once such authorizations are in place, “relevant information and records may be shared with members of the team.” (See Welf. & Inst. Code, § 832(b, c).)

If the child welfare agency files or records, or any portions thereof, are privileged or confidential, pursuant to any other state law, except Section 827, or federal law or regulation, the requirements of that state law or federal law or regulation prohibiting or limiting release of the child welfare agency files or records, or any portions thereof, shall prevail.



Confidentiality Laws Authorizing Or Requiring Release

Other examples of “notwithstanding” laws:

- Tribal court transfers (WIC § 827.15)
- Disclosure by court to sheriff regarding felonies (WIC §§ 827.2, 827.7))



When To Release And When To Redact: Discussion Points

827?

- Entitled to inspect or receive copies under 827? Who decides? What process?

Is there information in the file protected by other confidentiality laws?

- How does an agency know/identify information in its file that may be protected by other laws?

Applying the law

- Who makes the decision regarding access?

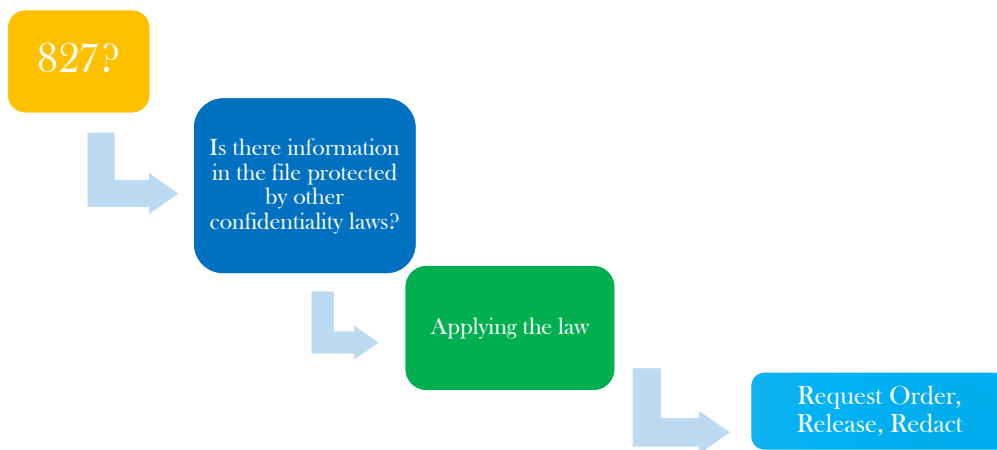


Part III - Case Scenarios

Applying Our Knowledge



What Can You Get And Who Can You Tell?



Case Scenario A: Part #1

A child, eight years old, is placed in the home of a resource family. The caregiver asks the CSW for copies of the court reports, minute orders, and the health and education passport. The caregiver also indicates she will be participating in all school meetings including parent-teacher conferences and IEP's.

- Is this protected information?
- Is the caregiver entitled to all of these items?
- What if the caregiver is a relative or NREFM?
- What if the caregiver is the De Facto Parent?

Case Scenario A: Part #2

After the child is placed with the caregiver, a Child and Family Team is held. The meeting includes the caregiver, a CFT Facilitator, the CSW, child's therapist, mother and father, the family's pastor, and a Coach from the Boys and Girls club that has known the child since in Kindergarten.

- How should issues of confidentiality be addressed?
- What information can be shared during the meeting?
- Can written documents from the juvenile case file be shared?
- Should anyone from the meeting be excluded?

Case Scenario A: Part #3

Thereafter, the child is physically and sexually abused in the home of the caregiver by another male, foster child. An attorney representing the other child in the juvenile delinquency matter wants to inspect the child welfare file involving both children.

- Is the attorney entitled to the records?
- How can the attorney obtain the records?
- What if the attorney wants psychological records concerning both children? How can the attorney obtain those records?

Case Scenario A: Part #4

Simultaneously, the parents of the abused child file a civil complaint against the child welfare agency. The attorney representing the child welfare agency wants to inspect and receive copies of the juvenile case file to use in the civil proceeding.

- Is the agency's attorney entitled to the records? Can the agency give the records to the attorney to use in the civil proceeding without a court order?
- Can the civil attorney share the records with the other attorneys/parties in the civil proceeding?
- Can the parents' attorney obtain the records without a court order?

Case Scenario A: Part #5

Learning about the abuse, an aunt wants the child to be placed in her custody. The child's aunt calls the child welfare agency asking for the status of the case.

- Is this information protected?
- Is this relative entitled to the information?
- What if the relative is the caregiver?
- What if the relative is the education rights holder?

Case Scenario A: Part #6

Somehow the media learns about the pending civil proceeding and wants to publish an article documenting all of the civil cases in 2017 where the child welfare agency was found to be civilly negligent. A newspaper publishing company has requested access to the juvenile case files involving those civil cases.

- Is information as to the existence of the juvenile case files protected?
- Is the media entitled to access the juvenile case file?
- What if the information is already being reported by other media outlets?
- What if the child is deceased?

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