

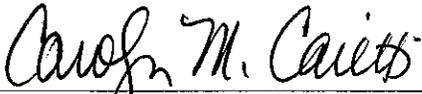
**PROTOCOL FOR CONSERVATORSHIP OF A CHILD  
WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE JUVENILE COURT**

This protocol outlines the procedures to be followed when it appears that conservatorship may be necessary to protect a child who is the subject of dependency or delinquency proceedings in the juvenile court. Conservatorship for a child is appropriate only if the child is so gravely disabled by a mental disorder that the child cannot utilize the necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter) even when they are provided to the child by others.

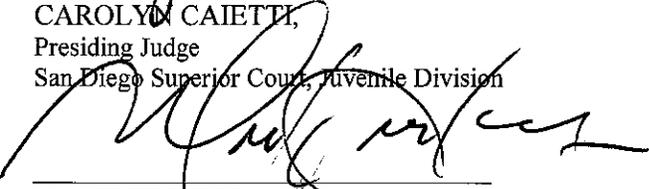
1. Conservatorship for a child should be exceptionally rare. It should be utilized only as a last resort after all other options have been exhausted and there is no other legal authority in place to authorize involuntary psychiatric treatment or placement.
2. **Team meetings:** A team meeting will be convened to determine whether a referral to the Office of the Public Conservator is appropriate. Any member of the team may schedule a team meeting. Notice of the meeting will be given by the person who schedules the meeting.
  - a. For a child who is the subject of a dependency petition, the team will consist of the person who holds educational and/or developmental-services decisionmaking rights (“the rights holder”), the social worker and the social worker’s supervisor, County Counsel, the child’s attorney, and the Children, Youth and Families Supervising Psychiatrist or designee.
  - b. For a child who is the subject of a delinquency petition, the team will consist of the rights holder, the probation officer, the child’s attorney, the prosecutor, and the Children, Youth and Families Supervising Psychiatrist or designee.
  - c. If the child is the subject of both a dependency and a delinquency petition, the team will consist of the rights holder, the social worker and the social worker’s supervisor, the probation officer, the child’s dependency and delinquency attorneys, County Counsel, the prosecutor, and the Children, Youth and Families Supervising Psychiatrist or designee.
  - d. If the child is a client of the San Diego Regional Center, a representative of that agency will participate in the team meetings.
  - e. Notice of the team meeting will be given to the child and the child’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and their attorneys. If the school district has been or should be playing a role in the child’s placement and services, notice will also be given to an education representative.
  - f. Additional team meetings will be scheduled as necessary to address the child’s continuing needs, particularly as the child transitions from one placement to another.

3. **Referral:** Any person involved in the case may raise the issue of conservatorship. However, only a psychiatrist or a county psychologist can make the formal referral to the Office of the Public Conservator. For a child who is the subject of proceedings in the juvenile court, the referral will normally be made by the child's treating STAT psychiatrist or psychologist, or by the Children, Youth and Families Supervising Psychiatrist.
4. **Information sharing:** Notwithstanding the confidential nature of juvenile court proceedings, information from the juvenile case may be shared with the Office of the Public Conservator and with any member of the child's mental health team. This communication may include the exchange of relevant documents, including but not limited to court orders, reports, school records, medical records, and mental health records. The information must be kept in a confidential manner by the person who receives it, unless otherwise authorized by law or ordered by the court. This exchange of information does not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege. See Welfare and Institutions Code section 827(a)(1)(K) and San Diego County Superior Court Rules 6.6.4 and 6.9.19.
5. **Appointment of conservator:** If a conservator is appointed for a child, the Office of the Public Conservator will provide the juvenile court and the assigned social worker or probation officer with the conservator's name and contact information. The social worker or probation officer will immediately file an ex parte application to give notice to all parties in the case that a conservator has been appointed for the child, including the conservator's name and contact information.
6. **Notice of hearings:** After a conservator has been appointed for a child, that person is entitled to notice of all further hearings in the juvenile court regarding the child. Notice shall be given by mail to the Office of the Public Conservator: 5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 130, San Diego, CA 92123.
7. **Agreement:** The parties hereby agree to the terms of this protocol.

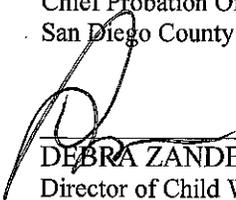
DATE: 10/1/15

  
 CAROLYN CAIETTI,  
 Presiding Judge  
 San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Division

DATE: 10/6/15

  
 MACK JENKINS,  
 Chief Probation Officer  
 San Diego County Department of Probation

DATE: 10/5/15

  
 DEBRA ZANDERS-WILLIS,  
 Director of Child Welfare Services  
 San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

Final: 10/1/15

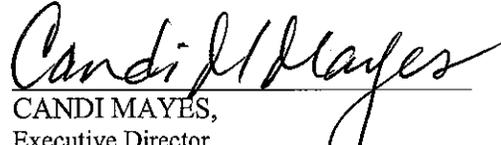
DATE: 10/13/15

  
ALFREDO AGUIRRE, LCSW,  
Director  
San Diego Behavioral Health Services

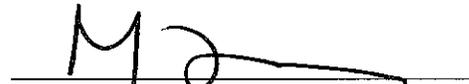
DATE: 10/19/15

  
JOHN PHILIPS,  
Chief Deputy County Counsel  
Office of County Counsel

DATE: 10/20/15

  
CANDI MAYES,  
Executive Director  
Dependency Legal Group of San Diego

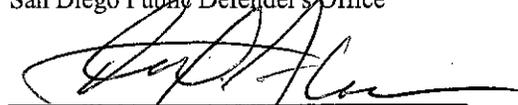
DATE: 10/1/15

  
MICHELE LINLEY,  
Chief of the Juvenile Division  
San Diego District Attorney's Office

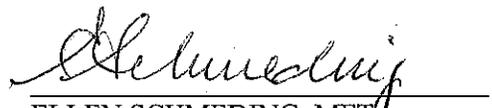
DATE: 10/1/15

  
MARY BETH WIRKUS,  
Supervising Attorney for Juvenile Delinquency Cases  
San Diego Public Defender's Office

DATE: 10/5/15

  
CARLOS FLORES,  
Executive Director  
San Diego Regional Center

DATE: 10/5/15

  
ELLEN SCHMEDING, MFT  
Public Conservator  
Director of Aging and Independence Services