

ATTACHMENT A

Statement of CSW's Objection to Disclosure of Confidential Case Information per Welfare and Institutions Code Section 728

NOTE: The following statement is to be read aloud prior to giving any testimony in any proceeding with the exception of Family Law or Probate proceedings concerning custody or visitation issues about which the CSW has consulted with County Counsel.

The Department of Children and Family Services has been advised by the County Counsel's office that the case records, court documents, and case information within my knowledge and possession are confidential under the provisions of Section 827 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and are not to be inspected except by order of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

Further, Section 11167(d) of the Penal Code, which is contained in the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, states that the identity of all persons reporting suspected child abuse shall be confidential and may be disclosed only to specified parties or by court order.

The reporting parties may also waive confidentiality. If this court orders that I turn over these records to the court or testify in this matter regarding case information, case records, or court documents, in spite of my protest, I will comply with such order, but respectfully request that this objection be included in the record.

I further request that the court review the records *in camera* prior to disclosure.

From Wikipedia: ***In camera*** (Latin: "in a chamber") is a legal term meaning "**in private**". It is also sometimes termed **in chambers** or **in curia**. Pronounced as it is spelled.

In camera describes court cases (or portions thereof) that the public and press are not admitted to. *In camera* is the opposite of trial in open court where all the parties and witnesses testify in a public courtroom, and attorneys make their arguments in public to the trier of fact.

Entire cases may be heard *in camera* when, for example, matters of national security are involved. *In camera* reviews may also be used during otherwise open trials - for example, to protect trade secrets or where one party asserts privilege (such as attorney-client privileged communications). This lets the judge review the document in private before determining its admissibility in open court.