

IN THE DISTRICT COURTS
OF HUNT COUNTY, TEXAS

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**ORDER ON RELEASE OF CERTAIN
INFORMATION IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASES**

The 196th and 354th Judicial District Courts, by and for the State of Texas and sitting in and for Hunt County, Texas issue this Order relating to the release of certain confidential information in Child Protective Services cases.

IT IS ORDERED that The Department of Family and Protective Services (hereinafter the "Department") shall release to all attorneys in each case information relating to the placement of children made the basis of the suit, including the name(s) of the person with whom the child/children are placed, the address at which the child/children and any and all contact information, including but not limited to the address, telephone number, and email address of the person(s) with whom the child/children are placed. This release shall be made as soon as is practicable following the appointment of the attorney or the placement of the child as applicable.

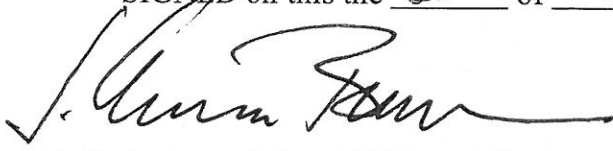
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the attorney to whom this information is released shall not provide any of the above-referenced information to the attorney's client at any time, whether during the pendency of the case or after a resolution of the case, nor shall the attorney provide the information to any third party, including but not limited to experts, witnesses, friends or family members of the attorney's client, or appellate attorneys. Any release of the information to any third party requires specific written order of the court after notice and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Department may seek an *ex parte* emergency order from the appropriate court to withhold the information described above. If an *ex parte* order allowing the information to be withheld is granted, the court will hold a hearing within 14 days of the date of the *ex parte* order, with notice to all parties/attorneys of their right to appear and be heard, to determine whether the information should be released or withheld.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no parent, party, relative to the child or any other person other than the attorney *ad litem* or guardian *ad litem* for the child/children shall ask for or receive from any child/children in the custody of the Department any of the information described herein, either directly or indirectly.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all information provided by the Department pursuant to this Order shall be immediately destroyed by the attorney receiving such information upon the attorney's discharge from further representation in the case.

SIGNED on this the 23rd of January, 2023.



J. Andrew Bench
Judge, 196th Judicial District



Keli Aiken
Judge, 354th Judicial District