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DATE

The Honorable Alex Lee

Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee

1020 N Street, Room 124

Sacramento, CA 95817

RE: **Support for AB 1192 – Expanding Notification Requirements in Child Abuse Cases**

Dear Chair Lee & Honorable Committee Members:

[Organization name] is proud to support AB 1192, authored by Assemblymember Carrillo, which seeks to close critical gaps in California’s child welfare system by ensuring timely notification to attorneys representing both minors and parents in cases of suspected abuse within foster care placements.

[Insert organization’s background and/or any specific stories or cases to emphasize the need for this bill.]

Currently, California law under Penal Code Section 11166.1 requires social service agencies to notify a minor’s attorney when there is a reasonable suspicion that the minor has been abused or neglected. However, this requirement does not extend to the attorneys of other foster children residing in the same placement or to the attorneys of the abused child’s parents. As a result, children may continue to be placed at risk, and parents are left unaware of crucial information affecting their children’s well-being.

AB 1192 will address these deficiencies by implementing two key reforms:

1. **Notifying a Minor’s Attorney When Another Child in the Same Placement is Suspected to Have Been Abused**
	* If abuse is suspected in a foster home, all attorneys representing foster children residing in that placement must be notified.
	* This allows attorneys to take appropriate action, such as filing for removal, requesting court intervention, or conducting their own investigation, to ensure their client’s safety.
2. **Notifying a Parent’s Attorney When There is a Reasonable Suspicion That Their Child Has Been Abused in Out-of-Home Care**
	* Parents have a fundamental right to protect and advocate for their children’s safety.
	* Without proper notification, parents and their legal counsel are left unaware of potential harm occurring in foster care, limiting their ability to intervene or seek appropriate legal remedies.

Foster care is intended to be a refuge for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Yet, data reveals that some foster placements fail in their fundamental duty to protect these children:

* In 2022, the Children’s Bureau reported that **169 California children** were victims of abuse or maltreatment by their foster parents.
* Nationally, **six children lost their lives** due to abuse by foster parents that same year.

These statistics underscore the need for robust oversight and accountability. Attorneys for foster children and their parents play a critical role in safeguarding children’s welfare, but they cannot fulfill this role without access to essential information.

AB 1192 aligns with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 317(e), which tasks children’s attorneys with making recommendations concerning their client’s welfare. It is impossible for attorneys to fulfill this duty if they are unaware of abuse occurring in their client’s placement.

By expanding the current notification framework, AB 1192 ensures that attorneys have the information they need to:

* Advocate for a child’s removal from an unsafe placement
* Seek court intervention to address systemic failures
* Provide parents with the opportunity to protect their children

AB 1192 is a critical step toward reinforcing protections for California’s most vulnerable children. By ensuring that attorneys representing foster children and parents receive timely notification of suspected abuse, this bill empowers legal advocates to act swiftly in the best interests of their clients.

For these reasons, [Organization name] strongly urges the Assembly Human Services Committee to support AB 1192.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Human Services Committee

 Assemblymember Carrillo