



CHILD CARE LAW CENTER

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ALAMEDA COUNTY JUDGE ISSUES EMERGENCY ORDER PRESERVING CHILD CARE FOR THOUSANDS OF CALIFORNIA WORKING FAMILIES

*Judge halts implementation of Gov. Schwarzenegger's
line-item veto of funds subsidizing child care*

OAKLAND, CA – Alameda County Superior Court Judge Wynne Carvill issued an order granting interim relief this afternoon, halting the termination of child care services for working low-income California families. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed this critical child care funding earlier this month. The order takes effect immediately and will last until November 4, when the lawyers are due back in court to argue whether it should be extended.

The order came in a lawsuit filed by Parent Voices Oakland and four California mothers who had been told that their child care assistance will end on Monday. Had Judge Carvill not granted the order, the parents of more than 56,000 California children would have been left without the critical assistance they require to stay employed.

“Pending further order of this court,” the order states, the California Department of Education “shall not terminate” the child care services and “shall direct its contracting agencies not to do so.”

“This is an important step in preventing irreversible harm to working families,” said Stephen Ronfeldt, Co-Director of the Public Interest Law Project.

Without continued state child care support, known as CalWORKs Stage 3 child care, many working parents would have to choose between leaving their young children unattended during the work day or quitting their jobs. This would result in higher unemployment and would also force more people to seek public assistance.

“We are extremely relieved that the judge recognized the extreme harm and hardship this abrupt termination of child care could cause parents,” said Corean Todd, a board member for Parent Voices Oakland, an advocacy group of low-income parents who rely on subsidized child care and the lead petitioner in the lawsuit. “Thanks to today’s court order, the parents of more than 56,000 children will have child care so they can go to work as usual on Monday morning.”

The abrupt elimination of CalWORKs Stage 3 child care services was set to start on November 1. At the November 4 hearing, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in Department 21 of the Alameda County Superior Court, the judge will decide whether to issue a preliminary injunction continuing the interim relief into the future.

The suit was brought by the Public Interest Law Project, the Child Care Law Center, the Western Center on Law & Poverty, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Public Counsel Law Center, and Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

The Public Interest Law Project provides crucial litigation and advocacy support to local legal services and public interest law programs throughout California. (<http://www.pilpca.org>)

The Child Care Law Center is a national nonprofit legal services organization that works to make high quality, affordable child care available to every child, every family, and every community. (<http://www.childcarelaw.org>)

The Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc. fights for justice and system-wide change to secure housing, healthcare and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. (<http://www.wclp.org>)

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County provides free legal services to low-income residents throughout Los Angeles County. (<http://www.nls-la.org>)

Public Counsel Law Center is the nation’s largest public interest law firm specializing in delivering pro bono legal services to low-income communities. (<http://www.publiccounsel.org>)

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) is the frontline law firm for low-income people in Los Angeles. (<http://www.lafla.org>)