September 1, 2015

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PROPOSED RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED
KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KERN COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCY
Fiscal Impact: None

Your Board is required by Penal Code §933 to respond to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury on matters within its jurisdiction. The 2014-2015 Grand Jury issued the above entitled report.

The Grand Jury’s report provided a review of the Kern County Department of Human Services Kern County Adoption Agency. The Grand Jury gave one (1) recommendation: 1) There should be a form the biological parent(s) could sign relinquishing their child/children at the time of the adoption. The form would allow the parent(s) to choose or refuse to make the adoption information available to the child at adulthood.

A proposed response is attached for your Board’s consideration.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the response to the 2014-2015 Grand Jury report entitled Kern County Department of Human Services Kern County Adoption Agency and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter transmitting the Board’s response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Sincerely,

John Nilon
County Administrative Officer

Attachments

cc: Department of Human Services
September 1, 2015

The Honorable John S. Somers, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Judge Somers:

Transmitted herewith is the Board of Supervisors’ response to the 2014-2015 Grand Jury’s Final Report entitled Kern County Department of Human Services Kern County Adoption Agency.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the Grand Jury’s review and input.

Sincerely,

David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Grand Jury
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report
Kern County Department of Human Services
Kern County Adoption Agency

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:

R1: There should be a form the biological parent(s) could sign relinquishing their child/children at the time of the adoption. The form would allow the parent(s) to choose or refuse to make the adoption information available to the child at adulthood.

Although the department is in compliance with the basic mandates regarding consent for post adoptive contact they are considering making changes to enhance efforts and increase accountability by documenting all contact consent information efforts made with the birth parent(s). Currently, contact consent forms mandated in accordance with Family Code 8702 and 8703 already exist. Prior to the termination of parental rights or upon a birth parent(s) relinquishment, the adoption Social Worker asks the birth parents whether or not they wish information to be disclosed to their biological child at the age of 21. If a birth parent wishes to contact their adult biological child, a Consent for Contact form is signed authorizing the release of information.