



# Judicial Council of California

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*Chief Justice of California  
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April 9, 2024

Hon. Alex Lee  
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 2929 (Carrillo), as introduced February 15, 2024—Support

Dear Assembly Member Lee:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2929 which requires the court, in conducting periodic status reviews of a child or nonminor dependent not residing with relatives, to determine whether the social worker has continued efforts to locate any relatives who could provide family support or possible placement because it would support the juvenile court to carry out its statutory and rule of court responsibilities to place children with relatives whenever possible. California rule of court, [rule 5.637](#) provides that the court must make findings at every hearing when a child has been removed from their parents regarding the efforts of the child welfare or probation agency to exercise due diligence in family finding. These efforts include asking the child, conducting internet research, and for an Indian child, contacting the child's tribe. AB 2929 will conform the statutory provisions with the duties of the court in rule 5.637 and ensure that social workers and probation understand their responsibilities to engage in family finding throughout the time that a child is removed from their parents.

Outcomes for dependent children placed with relatives are much better than those for children placed with unrelated caregivers. They are more likely to experience placement stability, and thus also have better educational and mental health outcomes. Current law is informed by this research and provides that relatives are the preferred placement when a child cannot be safely maintained at home. AB 2929 will support juvenile courts to implement these statutory preferences by providing the court with the best information possible regarding all available relatives of the child.

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For these reasons, the Judicial Council strongly supports AB 2929.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tracy Kenny at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director  
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/TK/ad

cc: Members, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Hon. Juan Carrillo, Member of the Assembly  
Ms. Alexandria Smith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Mr. Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy and Budget  
Ms. Jith Meganathan, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Ms. Shelley Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California