

# THE RESOURCE FAMILY HERALD

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2018

## CHILD WELFARE NEWS

### CALIFORNIA PASSES BILL BANNING TRANSFER OF JUVENILES UNDER 16

By John Kelly, August 30, 2018

The California legislature has passed a bill that prevents juveniles 15 or younger from being transferred into adult court for any crime, a dramatic turnaround in a state that used to give wide discretion to prosecutors in seeking adult time for youths.



Photo by Victory Fund

Sen. Ricardo Lara, co-author of SB 1391: "Sending youth to an adult prison does not help our youth and does not make our communities any safer."

"California has shown us what is possible if you invest in youth and families in their communities," said Marcy Mistrett, CEO of the Campaign for Youth Justice, which supported the bill. "From ending direct file, to adding adolescent development considerations to judicial hearings, to sentencing reform and jail removal — California has dropped incarceration rapidly while keeping crime low."

The bill, Senate Bill 1391, has to return to the California Senate for a procedural vote. Supporters of it say Gov. Jerry Brown (D) is expected to sign the bill into law.

Currently in California, teens aged 14 and older who are charged with certain serious offenses can be sent to adult court for adjudication at the behest of a judge through a transfer hearing. Young teens

charged with murder and some sexual offenses are automatically transferred to adult court.

If SB 1391 becomes law, all 14- and 15-year-olds charged with a crime would be handled in the juvenile justice system. Under no circumstances would anyone younger than age 16 be tried in adult court, even for murder charges.

"Cognitive science has proven that children and youth who commit crimes are very capable of change," said State Sen. Ricardo Lara (D), the bill's author, in an interview this summer with The Chronicle of Social Change. "Sending youth to an adult prison does not help our youth and does not make our communities any safer."

The vast majority of youth transferred to adult court are 16- and 17-year-olds. In California, any youth who is incarcerated following an adult conviction is placed in a juvenile facility until they are adults.

In recent years, the average number of 14- and 15-year-old transfers was around 70. The total plummeted to 32 in 2016 after Proposition 57 ended the practice of allowing prosecutors to directly file charges on teens in adult court. That action must now be approved by a judge in California.

Supporters of SB 1391 argue that keeping 14- and 15-year-old offenders in the juvenile justice system will reduce recidivism rates and better rehabilitate and prepare youth for successful, productive re-entry into society.

These benefits are credited, in part, to the availability — and mandatory nature — of services such as education and counseling. But the other side of the coin is that keeping youth in the juvenile system protects them from the behaviors and personalities in adult prison.

"These youth are very young, very moldable," said Israel Villa, a policy coordinator with the nonprofit MILPA Collective (short for Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement), in an interview with The Chronicle of Social Change this summer.

### COUNTY OF SAN MATEO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

#### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

#### *Autumn Greetings to our Families,*

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to **Karl Porter** who joined Human Services Agency as the new Assistant Director, Jennifer Valencia who is the Interim Children & Family Services Director, and Michele Tom is our Manager.

We hope everyone is well and hope to see you at our annual holiday party on December 15, Saturday. We will mail the details when time gets closer. Take good care and be well.

Kind regards,  
Ayse Dogan  
RFA Unit Supervisor



"Do we want these kids in a level four prison with the most violent offenders where they can be molded, utilized, often abused? Or do we want them in a juvenile facility amongst their peers with access to all these things to rehabilitate them?"

Opponents of the bill include the California Police Chiefs' Association, California District Attorneys Association, California State Sheriffs' Association and the Los Angeles Police Protective League.

Another California bill that could potentially pass this year — Senate Bill 439 — would limit the scope of the state's juvenile justice system. The bill would exclude most youths 12 and younger from exposure to juvenile court, putting California in company with Massachusetts as having the highest minimum age in the country. Most states do not have a minimum age threshold; 20 currently do ranging from age 6 to 12.

**ADOPTION EDUCATION GROUP**

Topics include parenting, behavioral issues and adoption. This group is open to adoptive and foster parents. Dinner and childcare provided with RSVP. Contact: Carlos Bravo, cbravo@smcgov.org Location: 472 Harbor Blvd., Building B, Belmont

**FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

Great resource for new and seasoned parents. Meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month - except July and August. Dinner and childcare provided with RSVP.

Contact: Deborah Kemper, MBA President San Mateo County Foster Parent Association (510) 599-6100 / Debkemper0404@gmail.com Location: 400 Harbor Blvd., Building B, Belmont

**RFA INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

No need to RSVP.

Contact: Ayse Dogan (650) 802-5142 / ADogan@smcgov.org Location: 400 Harbor Blvd., Building B, Belmont Visit www.smchsa.org for directions.

**MEDICALLY FRAGILE CARE SUPPORT GROUP**

Refreshments and childcare provided with RSVP.

Contact: Enza Ferreira (650) 312-5253 / EFerreira@smcgov.org Location: 31 Tower Road, San Mateo

**RESOURCE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Formally known as the Teen/Foster Parent Support Group. For families waiting for placements or who have received new placements. Dinner and childcare provided with RSVP.

Contact: Diane Carleson (650) 341-8520 / geminidvc@aol.com Location: 31 Tower Road, San Mateo

**RESOURCE PARENT TRAINING**

18 hours of great information, activities, and guest speakers. Individuals interested in becoming a resource parent must complete training as part of their application process. The training series is held over 3 consecutive Saturdays. Pre-registration is required to attend these classes. You will receive confirmation for your enrollment. Sorry no child care at this time.

Contact: Ayse Dogan (650) 802-5142 / ADogan@smcgov.org

# OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	<b>1 OCTOBER</b> 9:30-11:30 am Medically Fragile Care Support Group	<b>2</b> 7-8:30 pm RFA Information Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Foster Parent Association Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Teen/Foster Parent Support Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Resource Parent Support Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 1
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7-8:30 pm Adoption Education Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 1
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 1
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 NOVEMBER</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Foster Parent Association Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 2
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30-11:30 am Medically Fragile Care Support Group	<b>6</b> 7-8:30 pm RFA Information Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Resource Parent Support Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 2
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Teen/Foster Parent Support Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7-8:30 pm Adoption Education Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 2
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1 DECEMBER</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 3
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30-11:30 am Medically Fragile Care Support Group	<b>4</b> 7-8:30 pm RFA Information Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Foster Parent Association Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 3
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Teen/Foster Parent Support Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Resource Parent Support Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9-4 pm RPT Session 3 Annual Holiday Party
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00-8:30 pm Adoption Education Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

## TELL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!



If you have friends or family that may be interested in finding out more about becoming Resource Parents, you can let them know about our informal monthly informational meetings. There is no commitment necessary to attend.



## NEW RESEARCH SHOWS HOW CHILDREN WANT THEIR FOOD SERVED

Faculty of Science - University of Copenhagen.  
Science Daily, 3 September 2018

'As a researcher, I have anecdotally heard parents say that their children prefer to have their food served in a particular way, including in a specific order. But we do not have much evidence-based knowledge about how children sort and eat their food, which is very relevant when, for example, we want our children to eat more vegetables — or eat their food in general,' says Associate Professor Annemarie Olsen from Future Consumer Lab, at the Department of Food Science at the University of Copenhagen.

### Big Gains With Little Effort

We already know that you can get children to eat more fruits and vegetables just by presenting them in small portions and making them freely available, so you can easily grab them and eat them. We also know that the visual presentation affects how much children eat.

'At the same time, it would be nice to know whether there are big gains to be made just by arranging food on the plate in a certain way,' says Annemarie Olsen.

### 100 Children Ranked Food According To Their Preferred Serving Style

The researchers asked 100 schoolchildren, aged 7-8 and 12-14 years, to make a priority list of photos of six different dishes served in three different ways:

1. With the elements of the food presented separately so they did not touch each other
2. As a mix of separate ingredients and ingredients that were mixed together
3. With all the food mixed together

From the children's prioritization of the displayed photos, the researchers could see which presentation

of the food they liked best and which serving style they least cared for. The study shows that the younger girls (aged 7-8) prefer the separate serving style, while boys of the same age do not have a preference for how the food is arranged. The research also shows that children between 12 and 14 prefer food to be either mixed together or served as a mix of separate and mixed-together ingredients.

### A Separated Serving Style Is The Best Solution

The research does not say why younger girls prefer to have their food served as separate ingredients.

'One suggestion could be that they believe that the different ingredients could contaminate each other. But it could also be that they prefer to eat the different elements in a certain order or that the clear delineation just provides a better overview,' says Annemarie Olsen, who, based on the research, advises that you serve food separated on the plate — at least when it comes to the younger age groups.

'The child can mix the food when the various elements of the food are separated on the plate, while the reverse is not possible,' she says.

## HEALTH TIP: CONNECT WITH YOUR CHILD

HealthDay News, September, 2018

By being sensitive and responsive to your child's needs, you can forge a positive, healthy relationship, the National Institutes of Health says.

Children who are bonded with their parents are more likely to cope with challenges such as family instability, parental stress and depression, the agency says.

The NIH suggests:

- Reward and praise your child for good behavior.
- Give your child chores, and offer praise for jobs well done. If the child fails, don't be overly critical and allow time to develop new skills.
- Use kind words, tones and gestures when giving instructions or making requests.
- Spend time every day in warm, positive, loving interaction with your child.
- Identify opportunities to spend time as a family, such as by taking walks or reading books together.
- Brainstorm solutions to problems at home or school together.
- Set rules for mobile device use and television watching.
- Show interest in your child's feelings, concerns, worries, goals and ideas.
- Participate in activities that your child enjoys. Attend your child's games, activities and performances.



## HARVEST CHICKEN CASSEROLE

6 - 8 SERVINGS

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp. olive oil, plus more for baking dish
- 2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- Salt
- Ground black pepper
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into small cubes
- 1 lb. brussels sprouts, trimmed and quartered
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 c. chicken broth
- 6 c. cooked wild rice
- 1/2 c. dried cranberries
- 1/2 c. sliced almonds

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° and grease a 9"x13" baking dish with oil. In a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Add chicken to skillet and cook until golden and cooked through, 8 minutes per side. Let rest 10 minutes, then cut into 1" pieces.
2. Heat remaining tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add onion, sweet potatoes, and Brussels sprouts and season with thyme, paprika, salt, and pepper. Cook until softened, 5 minutes. Add broth, bring to a simmer, and cook, covered, 5 minutes.
3. Stir in cooked rice, chicken, and cranberries. Transfer mixture to baking dish, top with almonds, and bake 20 minutes.
4. Let cool 5 minutes before serving.

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Resource Parent Approval Unit Supervisor  
Ayse Dogan  
1 Davis Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002  
(650) 802-5142

### RESOURCES

#### CPR/First Aid Classes Offered by Community Based Organizations

The following are resources for CPR/First Aid class. Remember the class you take must include infant and child CPR/First Aid. If you need childcare, please check with the agency you pick to see if that is something they offer.

##### ***In Home CPR***

The American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED course  
Cost: \$95 per person  
Location: 200 Main St. Suite 200C, Redwood City

##### ***Safetytrainingseminars.com***

San Francisco American Heart Association holds a number of classes throughout each month.  
No childcare provided.  
Cost: \$120.00 per person, includes an American Heart Association CPR Book.  
Location: 598 Vermont St (18th St), San Francisco  
Plenty of free street parking.

##### ***Helponechild.org***

Their classes are conducted quarterly. Their class is five hours long and usually runs from 8:30am-1:30pm. Childcare is available with RSVP.  
Cost: \$50.00 per person, advanced payment and reservation required.  
Location: 858 University Avenue, Los Altos  
Contact: 888-KID-HOPE (888) 543-4673

##### ***On-line Training***

You may renew your certification through on-line CPR/First Aid training. The advantages of on-line training include lower cost and convenience.  
[www.nationalcprfoundation.com](http://www.nationalcprfoundation.com)

#### HSA Resource Parent Ombudsperson

Freda Cobb  
Resource Parent Ombudsperson  
County of San Mateo  
Human Services Agency  
Children and Family Services  
1 Davis Drive, Belmont  
Phone: (650) 802-7650  
E-mail: [fcobb@smcgov.org](mailto:fcobb@smcgov.org)

#### Resource Family Recruitment Coordinator

Carlos Smith  
[csmith@smcgov.org](mailto:csmith@smcgov.org)  
(650) 802-7637

**Want To Earn \$500?** As a Resource Parent, you are eligible to earn \$500 for recruiting a family that becomes licensed and eligible to receive a placement of a foster child in San Mateo County. When the family you are working with contacts the Agency, be sure and tell them to let us know they were referred by you. Questions, Contact Ayse at (650) 802-5142 or [ADogan@smcgov.org](mailto:ADogan@smcgov.org)