



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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January 21, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Richard Sanchez  
Acting Chief Information Officer

Subject: **CONFIDENTIAL/SENSITIVE INFORMATION STOLEN/LOST AT THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

In November 2008, two unrelated computer security incident events occurred. An employee from Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and another from Health Services' (DHS) LAC+USC Medical Center each either lost or had stolen removable data storage devices (i.e., thumb drives). Each storage unit contained approximately 120 records containing confidential/sensitive information that were potentially compromised.

The respective departments have issued letters to the constituents identified informing them of this occurrence. This office established, and is implementing Phase II, a Portable Device Media Initiative, that addresses the protection of removable media devices and compact discs. We will collaborate with each department to ensure appropriate information security protections are being planned and implemented. This action will assist in reducing future incidents of these types. Additionally, both departments are performing an in-depth investigation of their respective security incident since it involved confidential information.

For questions or concerns related to this matter, please contact me or Robert Pittman, Chief Information Security Officer, at 213.253.5631 or email at [rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov](mailto:rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov).

RS:RP:sjc

c: Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Raymond G. Fortner, County Counsel  
John F. Schunhoff, Director, Health Services  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, Children and Family Services  
Linda McBride, HIPAA Privacy Officer, Auditor-Controller

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