AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER October 7, 2025

ADDRESSING ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

On October 13, 2019, the Governor signed into law AB 218, which extended the statute of limitations period for individuals to file civil lawsuits for childhood sexual abuse. Many of the civil lawsuits that have since come forward involve children and youth who were part of the Los Angeles County probation and foster care systems. As a result, the County is in the process of settling thousands of AB 218 claims.

Any acts of childhood sexual abuse are reprehensible and indefensible. Los Angeles County remains steadfast in its commitment to victims of abuse, and this Board continues to reaffirm our dedication to helping the survivors of childhood sexual abuse recover and rebuild. Upon learning of the allegations of sexual abuse, we immediately began implementing reforms in prevention, reporting, and discipline to ensure that children in the County's care are safe from abuse.

The first round of AB 218 claims amounts to a proposed $4 billion settlement for approximately 11,000 plaintiffs. This is the costliest financial settlement in the history of Los Angeles County and will have a significant impact on the County and its ability to provide safety net services for years to come.

Recently, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on an investigation raising alleged egregious activities by some of the attorneys involved in the first AB 218 settlement cases whereby cash was offered individuals to fabricate allegations of sexual abuse within Los Angeles County.

It is appalling to consider that dishonest legal representatives would exploit reforms that were intended to deliver justice to survivors of abuse and diminish legitimate cases, further revictimizing the most vulnerable. As stewards of taxpayer dollars, we have a duty to protect the integrity of the system and ensure that any legal settlements are truly serving those who were victimized.

-MORE-

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to do the following:

1. Commence an immediate investigation into any alleged misconduct by legal representatives involved in AB 218 claims against the County, engaging other law enforcement partners as necessary;
2. Look into possible referrals to the California State Bar for an investigation into any alleged misconduct by legal representatives involved in AB 218 claims against the County;
3. Review the current terms and conditions of the AB 218 settlement agreement and consider options to further enhance and strengthen the veracity of claims;
4. Coordinate with Auditor-Controller's Office of Countywide Investigations to establish a dedicated fraud hotline to register anonymous and confidential fraud allegations related to AB 218 claims and promote the availability of the fraud hotline through Countywide Communications; and
5. Report back in 14 days, including in a confidential attorney-client memorandum if necessary and appropriate, on the status of the matters set forth above in items 1-4.

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KB:mvs