

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

March 3, 2026

**Supporting Immigrant Families with Family Preparedness Information**

Immigrants in Los Angeles County and across the country continue to face increased enforcement from the federal government, resulting in fear, chaos, and extended hardships. This Board has passed many motions and taken actions to protect our immigrant communities to the best of our ability, including approving a [Proclamation of Local Emergency for Federal Immigration actions](#) in October 2025.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice, one in two children in Los Angeles County has at least one immigrant parent; of these children, the overwhelming majority (89%) were born in the United States<sup>1</sup>. We know that children and families are living in fear, with parents terrified of being separated from their children and forced to plan for the worst. In July 2025, this Board passed the [Enhancing Access to Health and Social](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [https://vera-institute.files.svdcn.com/production/downloads/publications/Los Angeles County Immigrant Population Profile.pdf?dm=1748631105#:~:text=Page%201,immigrant%20parent](https://vera-institute.files.svdcn.com/production/downloads/publications/Los_Angeles_County_Immigrant_Population_Profile.pdf?dm=1748631105#:~:text=Page%201,immigrant%20parent).

MOTION

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[Services for County Immigrants](#) motion, directing the Department of Children and Family Services, in collaboration with the Office of Immigrant Affairs, Office of Child Protection, and First 5 LA to compile information specifically for parents who may be separated from their children. This information was to include guidance on how to designate a guardian and parental preference for placement and be shared with DCFS contracted community-based organizations, including the DCFS Prevention & Aftercare Services, and other community-based partners.

AB 495 (the Family Preparedness Act of 2025) was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 13, 2025, and took effect January 1, 2026. AB 495 makes several important changes as it relates to guardianship for immigrant families, most significantly allowing a custodial parent to nominate a joint guardian for their minor child in anticipation of temporary unavailability— whether due to immigration-related circumstances or other specified reasons. This change allows the custodial parent to appoint a joint guardian without having to relinquish their parental rights, which is particularly important for families who may be facing separation.

As we continue to work to support the immigrant community across the County, we need to ensure that we are arming them with the most up-to-date and correct information about their rights possible. Public Counsel and the Alliance for Children's Rights are working with community-based organizations and trusted partners to share information about AB 495 and how it may change a family's preparedness plan. This is information our county departments should also be aware of, and sharing with their contracted providers, clients, and community groups.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE,** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in collaboration with the Office of Immigrant Affairs, Office of Child Protection, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and First 5 LA to work with Public Counsel, the Alliance for Children’s Rights, and other trusted partners to include updated information on AB 495 and changes in joint guardianship in the materials they are preparing for parents who may be separated from their children. It is also critical that all family preparedness planning includes information regarding how parents can reunify with their children after a separation. This information should be shared with DCFS-contracted community-based organizations, including the DCFS Prevention & Aftercare Services, and other community-based partners. It should also be shared with all county departments serving children and families, including the Departments of Mental Health, Youth Development, Public Health, Health Services, Public Social Services, Office of Immigrant Affairs, and Library. All materials shall be made available in the County’s threshold languages, written in plain language, culturally responsive, accessible to individuals with disabilities, and distributed in both digital and print formats.

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