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August 12, 2014

Via Email & Hand Delivery

Magistrate Judge Joseph C. Spero
United States District Court Northern District of California
Courtroom G – 15th Floor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: *G.F. et. al. v. Contra Costa County et. al.* (C 13-03667 MEJ)

Dear Judge Spero,

We represent Plaintiffs in the above-referenced case and write to request that the named plaintiffs be excused from attending the upcoming settlement conference, scheduled for August 26 and 27.

Requiring the Named Plaintiffs to attend would impose a substantial hardship on them. Named Plaintiffs Gail F., Barbara C. and CiCi C. are unable to attend due to pre-existing work, family and childcare obligations. Named Plaintiffs G.F., Q.G., and W.B., whose interests Gail F., Barbara C. and CiCi C. represent, are similarly unable to attend due to placement at the Juvenile Hall (G.F.), school obligations (Q.G.), and placement at an out of state residential treatment facility (W.B.).

Plaintiffs' counsel, including lead trial counsel, will appear at the settlement conference on Plaintiffs behalf and has been given full authority to negotiate on behalf of Plaintiffs. Additionally, to the extent possible and as needed, the Named Plaintiffs will be available by phone. Neither Defendant objects to this request.

Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the named plaintiffs be excused from attending the upcoming settlement conference.

Dated: 8/13/14

Sincerely,

Kara Janssen
Attorney for Plaintiffs



cc: Kimberly Smith, Counsel for Contra Costa County Office of Education (via email)
D. Cameron Baker, Counsel for Contra Costa County (via email)