

OFFICE MEMORANDUM * TULARE COUNTY * COUNTY COUNSEL
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To: Board of Supervisors

Date: March 4, 2025

From: Andrew K. Haller
Deputy County Counsel

Subject: Closed Session item B

On or about July 1, 2024, two (2) minors, aged fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) years of age, were placed in a Foster Family Agency (“FFA”) by County. The FFA placed both minors in one of their own certified/registered/licensed foster homes. On July 2, 2024, the minors drowned in a pool located at the foster home. Counsel for the biological mother of the minors filed a Government Tort Claim alleging wrongful death and negligence.

The Government Tort Claim alleged breaches of several Child Welfare and Service (“CWS”) Mandatory duties and Requirements when County improperly placed the minors in the foster home and County failed to monitor minors after being placed in the foster home. In addition, there are allegations that the foster home was not assessed properly by CWS, that CWS failed to report known and suspected improper conduct; failed to investigate known improper conduct; and failed to immediately remove decedents from a placement presenting high-risk environmental dangers, drowning, mistreatment, neglect, and abuse and injury.