

Welcome to the Johnson & Johnson Newsletter.
Our monthly updates feature news from cases we handle in our practice, including:

- Criminal defense
- Juvenile dependency/CPS
- Juvenile arrests
- Civil rights claims
- Education law
- DUIs and Traffic Violations

In Our Juvenile Dependency/CPS Area:

Juvenile Attorney Carin Johnson wins rare appellate reversal on behalf of a parent in the California Court of Appeal, First District

On October 1, 2010, the California Court of Appeal, First District (Division Three) issued a rare published ruling in favor of Carin Johnson in the juvenile case of *L.Z. v. The Superior Court of Contra Costa County*. The reversal and published opinion is all the more remarkable because of the nearly 300 juvenile dependency cases heard by the First District last year – only 2% – less than six total opinions were published.

Lesson to be learned for all parents in California: never stop fighting for your parental rights. In a unanimous decision issued by the Appellate Court, a mother was granted services to reunify with her child just days before a termination of her parental rights was scheduled to occur. Her case turned

around for her on the day that the court issued a unanimous decision in her favor. Don't settle and continue fighting CPS.

The County & CPS, must prove to the court that the parent knew or should have known that their child was being abused when a W&I Code § 300(e) – *serious physical injury* – is alleged against them. Without this proof, the County's petition is worthless. Just alleging serious physical abuse such as broken bones is not enough. There must be proof brought to the court that the parent knew or should have known of the abuse that caused the child's injuries.

In some jurisdictions, these very child abuse cases are being filed more commonly than history has shown. A negative outcome of these allegations is a likely fast track to the termination of parental rights. Ms. Johnson has the experience and knowledge to handle these types of cases and all areas of juvenile dependency. If you or anyone you know is contacted by CPS regarding any allegation, contact us immediately at 925-952-8900. ■

In Our Criminal Defense Area:

Attorney Peter Johnson, Partner at The Law Offices of Johnson & Johnson recently achieved a hard fought NOT GUILTY verdict for his client in a high-profile First Degree Homicide case in Contra Costa County.

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Criminal Practice cont'd...

Mr. Johnson also prevailed on a DUI appeal this year involving a DMV hearing officer who stubbornly refused to reinstate a client's license after all criminal charges were dismissed by the District Attorney.

Our office also handles all aspects of criminal defense including accusations of drug possession, sales and drug use, drunk driving, assault / battery and all theft crimes. ■

In Our Education Law Area:

Attorney Carin Johnson recently represented a parent whose child had been suspended from school. Ms. Johnson's efforts resulted in that action being completely removed from the child's records because the school failed to follow the Education Code. Our firm has a comprehensive

knowledge of education law from expulsions to Due Process hearings, and help parents with all types of school disciplinary and special education issues. ■

In Our Traffic Court Area:

Ms. Johnson also had another successful result in the First District Court of Appeal on a traffic matter. Ms. Johnson has cleared many clients' records or had charges reduced so that they may have a valid drivers license again. ■

Attorneys Carin and Peter Johnson have 34 years of combined experience encompassing criminal, civil, juvenile and education law. Peter is also the current President of the Criminal Law Section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association. Johnson & Johnson recently opened new offices in Walnut Creek.

This newsletter is produced in compliance with the California Business & Professions Code §6157-6159. The results portrayed in the above case examples were dependent on the facts of those specific cases, and in no way imply or guarantee a specific legal result for all clients and situations.

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