




ROBERT J. PRICE
Public Defender

LAW OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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FILED

AUG 25 2017

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By:  Clerk

August 25, 2017

The Honorable Judge Kate Powell Segerstrom
Tuolumne County Superior Court
60 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

RE: Public Defender's Office Response to the 2016-2017 Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

Dear Judge Powell Segerstrom:

The following is the response related to the Public Defender's Office section of the 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report as requested and required pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. There were no findings for the department to respond to. Below you will find a list of each Grand Jury recommendation followed by my response to each.

Recommendations:

- R22. Create, maintain, and observe a policy and procedure for HIPAA compliance. Each affected department should be aware of their obligations and actively participate and pursue full compliance.

Response: The recommendation is already in place at the Public Defender's Office. Whereas the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information, the department has a number of current policies that direct staff regarding the unauthorized and inappropriate intentional release of confidential or protected information, materials, data, forms or reports obtained as a result of the employee's position with the department. In addition, employees of the Public Defender's Office attend confidentiality training approved by the California State Bar.



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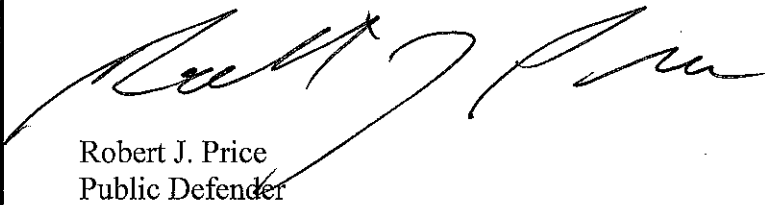
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- R23. Create, maintain, and observe a policy and procedure for PCS DSS compliance. Each affected department should be aware of their obligations and actively participate and pursue full compliance.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Public Defender's Office does not collect payments via credit card.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert J. Price
Public Defender

cc: Craig Pedro