



**MEMORANDUM  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATION  
County of Placer**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** August 29, 2023  
**FROM:** Jane Christenson, County Executive Officer  
**BY:** Amanda Flaa, Management Analyst II  
**SUBJECT:** Authorization to ratify a letter in opposition to “Transient Release” of a Sexually Violent Predator (“SVP”) in Placer County

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Ratify a letter to Placer County Superior Court, c/o District Attorney Morgan Gire, signed by the Chair on Thursday, August 24, 2023, in opposition to the “Transient Release” of a Sexually Violent Predator William Stephenson in Placer County.

**BACKGROUND**

William Stephenson has been designated as a Sexually Violent Predator (“SVP”) pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6600 et seq. On July 17, 2023, the Court granted William Stephenson’s Motion for Transient Release. The County of Placer received notice from the Department of State Hospitals that a hearing in the matter of William Stephenson is set for September 1, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. The hearing will be held in Department 31 of the Placer County Superior Court. A review of the public information available regarding SVP Stephenson indicates that he has a graphic history of prior violent offenses and of reoffending when released.

The notice from the Department of State Hospitals specifies that Mr. Stephenson has been ordered to be released to a trailer or RV at a parking location that has yet to be determined. The law considers this a “Transient Release” because he will not have a designated address. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors authorize the ratification of the attached letter in opposition to the placement of the SVP in Placer County.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no County fiscal impact associated with this action.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Opposition Letter

# County of Placer

## Board of Supervisors

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District 5



The Honorable Garen Horst  
Judge, Superior Court Placer County  
101 Maple Street  
Auburn, CA 95603  
c/o District Attorney Morgan Gire

**Re:** Concerns regarding transient release of William Stephenson, state designated Sexually Violent Predator in Placer County

Dear Judge Horst,

As members of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, we are writing on behalf of our residents in opposition to the transient release of state designated violent predator William Stephenson. Since your ruling on July 17, 2023, to grant Mr. Stephenson conditional transient release into Placer County, our offices have been overwhelmed with concerned residents – and rightfully so. While we try to navigate this ruling and what it means for our communities, we have found more questions than answers. The Department of State Hospitals and their private contractor Liberty Healthcare have seemed to be more interested in shielding information rather than providing information to community members and stakeholders.

From seeking a protective order for our county, to holding last minute community meetings, to forcing closed sessions before receiving community feedback, DSH has only served to create more community concern surrounding the release of Mr. Stephenson. They also have taken every opportunity to remind community members this process started due to your ruling, not their inability to find housing.

For the record, Mr. Stephenson has no place in the Placer County. He has proven time and time again that he cannot be successful. With that in mind, he unequivocally does not have a place as a transient release in Placer County. Not only does transient release have a 50% failure rate, we also do not believe our county's broadband infrastructure can support the 24-hour supervision Liberty Healthcare is promising our residents.

While we know the law dictates his imminent release, we also are of the belief that policy makers were not envisioning transient release as an option during the creation of the SVP program in 1996. As we seek legislative clarifications to this question, we are asking that you reconsider transient release for Mr. Stephenson. When it comes to the safety of our residents, this consideration should be of the highest priority.

Sincerely,

Jim Holmes, Chair  
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors  
Morgan Gire, District Attorney  
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel