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Court Enters Agreed Temporary Injunction Protecting Children with Severe Disabilities from Immigration Reporting

Nashville, TN, July 14, 2026 – The Davidson County Chancery Court has entered an Agreed Temporary Injunction preventing the Tennessee Department of Health from reporting certain children enrolled in the Children's Special Services (CSS) program to the state's centralized immigration enforcement division while legal proceedings continue.

The order follows the lawsuit filed on June 24 by the Tennessee Justice Center on behalf of three Nashville physicians challenging a new state action that threatened access to essential healthcare services for immigrant children with severe disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Under the Agreed Temporary Injunction, the Tennessee Department of Health:

1. **Must not report** identifying information about Children's Special Services (CSS) participants the Department has determined are not lawfully present in the United States to the state's centralized immigration enforcement division.
2. **Must restore and maintain enrollment** for children who were enrolled in CSS as of June 1, 2026, whose lawful presence the Department could not confirm, including those who sought to leave the program after receiving June 1 letters stating their information could be shared with immigration authorities. Those children may not be disenrolled or removed from CSS based on immigration status.
3. **Must continue annual recertification** for affected CSS participants without considering whether they are lawfully present in the United States.

4. **Must notify affected families and healthcare providers** that the Agreed Temporary Injunction is in effect. Notices must be provided in each family's primary language.
5. **Must post future updates** about the Agreed Temporary Injunction on the Department's Children's Special Services webpage, along with a copy of the court's order or a link to it.

"This agreement provides vital protections for families who should never have been forced to choose between their child's healthcare and the fear of immigration enforcement," said Michele Johnson, Executive Director of the Tennessee Justice Center. "Children with complex medical needs deserve uninterrupted access to care. We are pleased that these parents can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that their children will be safe while this case moves forward."

Children's Special Services has provided specialized care for Tennessee children with severe disabilities and chronic illnesses for more than 50 years. In June, the Tennessee Department of Health notified certain families that continuing to receive services could result in their information being shared with immigration authorities under a new state law. The action prompted widespread concern among healthcare providers, who warned that families could forgo medically necessary treatment out of fear.

The Agreed Temporary Injunction will remain in effect until a trial or until further order of the court. The case is stayed for the time being.

For updates on the case, visit www.tnjustice.org/snader-v-tdh.

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For over 30 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with vulnerable Tennessee families and helping them access basic necessities of life. Since opening our doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$2 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP and other public benefit programs.