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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 T.G., by and through his next friend,  
12 TANITA J.; P.P., by and through his  
13 general guardian, REBECCA P.; and J.A.,  
on behalf of themselves and all other  
similarly situated,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 KERN COUNTY; KERN COUNTY  
17 PROBATION DEPARTMENT; TR  
MERICKEL, in his official capacity as  
18 Chief of the Probation Department; KERN  
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF  
19 SCHOOLS; and MARY C. BARLOW, in  
her official capacity as Superintendent of  
20 Schools,,  
21

22 Defendants.

No. 1:18-cv-00257-DAD-JLT

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO  
PROCEED USING INITIALS

(Doc. No. 5)

23 Plaintiffs are minors with various disabilities, proceeding with counsel and challenging  
24 their conditions of confinement at Kern County juvenile detention facilities pursuant to claims  
25 brought under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act and the  
26 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. (Doc. No. 1.) On February 23, 2018,  
27 plaintiffs filed an unopposed motion to proceed using their initials as opposed to their full names.  
28 (Doc. No. 5.) Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(a) provides, in relevant part, that “in an

electronic or paper filing with the court that contains . . . the name of an individual known to be a minor . . . a party or nonparty making the filing may include only . . . the minor’s initials.”

Given the sensitive nature of the allegations and the plain language of Rule 5.2(a), it is proper to refer to the minor plaintiffs using only their initials. The court will likewise grant the motion to permit the minor plaintiffs' next friend and general guardian to be referred to using only their initials because they are the relatives of minor plaintiffs, and consequently, disclosure of the next friend and guardian's full names could be tantamount to disclosing the minor plaintiffs' full names.<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **March 6, 2018**

Dale A. Dwyer  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

<sup>1</sup> The order with respect to the use of initials only in referring to plaintiff's next friend and guardian is without prejudice to reconsideration should that become appropriate.