MICHAEL A. PENN, ESQ. (SBN 233817) 1 AITKEN ◆ AITKEN ◆ COHN 2 3 MacArthur Place, Suite 800 Santa Ana, California 92707-2555 3 Telephone Number: (714) 434-1424 Facsimile Number: (714) 434-3600 4 Email Address(es): michael@aitkenlaw.com; diana@aitkenlaw.com 5 Attorney for Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER, 6 and ARON ROFER 7 8 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE – CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER 11 12 CASE NO: 30-2023-01346985-CU-PO-CJC JOSETTE ROFER, an individual and as 13 3 MACARTHUR PLACE, SUITE 800 SANTA ANA, CA 92707 successor-in-interest to BRADLEY **Assigned for All Purposes** AITKEN+AITKEN+COHN 714-434-3600 FACSIMILE 14 ROFER; and ARON ROFER, an JUDGE: Judge Sandy Leal individual and as successor-in-interest to DEPT: 15 BRADLEY ROFER, **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR:** 16 17 Plaintiffs, 1. VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE (WRONGFUL DEATH) 18 VS. 2. NEGLIGENCE 19 ALL CITY MANAGEMENT (WRONGFUL DEATH) 20 SERVICES, INC.; COUNTY OF ORANGE; CAPISTRANO UNIFIED 3. PERSONAL INJURIES (PRE-DEATH) 21 SCHOOL DISTRICT: NORBERTO OF BRADLEY ROFER CABANAS CORONA; and DOES 1 22 through 100, Inclusive, 4. DANGEROUS CONDITION OF 23 PUBLIC PROPERTY (GOVERNMENT Defendants. **CODE SECTIONS 830 AND 835)** 24 (Unlimited Civil Case) 25 26 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 27 28 PRINTED ON

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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COMES NOW Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER, an individual and as successor-in-interest to BRADLEY ROFER, and ARON ROFER, an individual and as successor-in-interest to BRADLEY ROFER, the parents of BRADLEY ROFER, who allege against the Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. This is an action for wrongful death brought by the parents of BRADLEY ROFER arising out of the tragic and preventable collision incident that occurred on or around 7:25 a.m. on September 1, 2022, at or around Coto De Caza Drive in the north crosswalk of the intersection with Oso Parkway in the County of Orange, State of California. As a result of the Defendants' wrongful conduct, and each of them, as detailed below, BRADLEY ROFER, suffered injuries that ultimately caused his death on September 5, 2022.

THE PARTIES

- 2. Decedent BRADLEY ROFER was a resident of Coto De Caza, County of Orange. At the time of his death, BRADLEY ROFER was eight years of age and a strong and healthy person. BRADLEY ROFER is survived by his parents JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER.
- 3. Plaintiff JOSETTE ROFER is a competent adult, over the age of eighteen, and a resident of Coto De Caza, Orange County, California. JOSETTE ROFER is the mother of the decedent, BRADLEY ROFER. Plaintiff JOSETTE ROFER is successor-in-interest to her son, decedent BRADLEY ROFER. Attached to this Complaint as "Exhibit 1" is a true and correct copy of the Declaration of JOSETTE ROFER Pursuant to Section 337.32 of the Code of Civil Procedure, as well as enclosing a certified copy of BRADLEY ROFER's Certificate of Death.
- 4. Plaintiff ARON ROFER is a competent adult, over the age of eighteen, and a resident of Coto De Caza, Orange County, California. ARON ROFER is the father of the decedent, BRADLEY ROFER. Plaintiff ARON ROFER is successor-in-interest to his son, decedent BRADLEY ROFER. Attached to this Complaint as "Exhibit 2" is a true and correct copy of the Declaration of ARON ROFER Pursuant to Section 337.32 of the Code of Civil Procedure, as well as enclosing a certified copy of BRADLEY ROFER's Certificate of Death.

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- 5. Defendant ALL CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. doing business as THE CROSSING GUARD COMPANY and/or ACMS CARES, Inc. (hereinafter "ACMS, INC."), is and at all material times mentioned herein was, a California corporation in good standing organized and existing under the State of California with its principal place of business in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.
- Defendant COUNTY OF ORANGE (hereinafter "COUNTY"), at all times 6. mentioned herein was and is, a public entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of California and located in Orange County, California.
- 7. Defendant CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (hereinafter "CUSD"), was, and is a public entity operating schools in Orange County, California, including, but not limited to, Wagon Wheel Elementary School located at 30912 Bridle Path, in Coto de Caza, California.
- 8. Defendant NORBERTO CABANAS CORONA (hereinafter "CORONA"), is an individual with a last known address in the City of Tustin, County of Orange, State of California
- 9. The true names or capacities of Defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, whether individual, corporate, governmental, municipal, associate or otherwise, are unknown to Plaintiffs at the time of filing this Complaint and Plaintiffs, therefore, sues said Defendants by such fictitious names and will ask leave of Court to amend this Complaint to show their true names or capacities when the same have been ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon alleges, that each of the DOE Defendants is, in some manner, responsible for the events and happenings herein set forth and proximately negligently caused injury and damages to the Plaintiffs as herein alleged.
- 10. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants, including DOES 1 through 100, were the agents, servant, employees, and special employees of each of the remaining Defendants including DOES 1 through 100, at all times herein mentioned were acting within the course and scope of said agency and employment.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 11. Venue is proper in the current court given that the subject incident and conduct complained of herein occurred within the County of Orange, State of California and the damages sustained by the Plaintiffs are within the unlimited jurisdiction of the Superior Court of the State of California.
- 12. On or about February 24, 2023, timely claims for damages were filed on behalf of the Plaintiffs within the COUNTY OF ORANGE in substantial compliance with California Government Code § 910, et seq. As of the date of filing this Complaint, the claims for Plaintiffs ARON ROFER and JOSETTE ROFER were rejected by the COUNTY OF ORANGE, on or about March 9, 2023. Thus, this claim has been timely filed against and it is proper for this action to proceed in this Court.
- On or about February 24, 2023, timely claims for damages were filed on behalf of 13. the Plaintiffs within the CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT in substantial compliance with California Government Code § 910, et seq. As of the date of filing this Complaint, said claims were rejected by the CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, on or about March 15, 2023, with respect to the claim for Plaintiff ARON ROFER, and March 27, 2023, with respect to the claim for Plaintiff JOSETTE ROFER. Thus, this claim has been timely filed against and it is proper for this action to proceed in this Court.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

14. Oso Parkway is an east/west road and terminates at the intersection with South Bend Road (south of Oso Parkway) and Coto De Caza Drive (north of Oso Parkway). This threeway intersection is controlled by painted white STOP lettering in the lanes, stop limit lines, and posted red and white STOP signs. There are two lanes each for northbound and southbound Coto De Caza Drive/South Bend Road, and for eastbound and westbound Oso Parkway. The eastbound #1 lane of Oso Parkway is a designated left turn-only lane to northbound Coto De Caza Drive. The eastbound #2 lane of Oso Parkway can turn right or left to southbound South Bend Road or northbound Coto De Caza Drive. Painted crosswalks allow pedestrian travel across the roadway

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- 15. On or about September 1, 2022, it is believed thereon alleged that BRADLEY ROFER, age eight at the time, was riding his bicycle to school north on the pedestrian path east of South Bend Road. He entered the north crosswalk at the northeast corner of the intersection. Defendant CORONA, the driver of a Ford F-150, was driving east on Oso Parkway approaching Coto De Caza Drive in the #1 lane (left turn only lane to northbound Coto De Caza Drive). When Defendant CORONA, the driver of the Ford F-150, completed his left turn to northbound Coto de Caza Drive he failed to observe BRADLEY ROFER traversing the crosswalk ahead of him and struck BRADLEY ROFER, in an unincorporated area of the County of Orange, State of California.
- 16. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendant CORONA, and DOES 1-25, are, and all times herein mentioned were acting within the course and scope of their employment with Defendant DOES 26 through 50.
- 17. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that at all times mentioned herein, Defendant CORONA, and DOES 26 through 50, inclusive, and each of them, were the owners of the white Ford F-150 XL motor vehicle, and, at the time of the incident complained of, this vehicle was being driven and operated by Defendant CORONA, and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and each of them, with the full permission, knowledge and consent of all the remaining Defendants, and each of them.
- 18. Based on information and belief, the incident occurred around 7:25 a.m. during the morning peak traffic hour. Two crossing guards were assigned at the Subject Intersection from 7:15 am to 8 am to assist students crossing the streets. However, neither of them was present at the time of the incident.
- 19. Decedent BRADLEY ROFER initially survived the collision sequence, however, the injuries suffered because of the collision ultimately caused his death on September 5, 2022.
- 20. As a direct and legal result of the conduct of Defendants, and each of them, and the death of BRADLEY ROFER, Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER, have been deprived of the love, companionship, affection, society, and solace of their son BRADLEY

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ROFER, and have been caused the loss of future services, to their great loss and damage in an amount to be shown according to proof. All said injuries have caused and continue to cause Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER great pain and suffering and anxiety.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

WRONGFUL DEATH OF BRADLEY ROFER - NEGLIGENCE (On behalf of Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER, individually, and ARON ROFER, individually, vs. Defendant NORBERTO CABANAS CORONA and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive)

- 21. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 20 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, and every part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set out fully herein.
- 22. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant CORONA and DOES 1 through 100 and each of them, so negligently, carelessly, recklessly, wantonly and unlawfully, drove, operated, maintained, conducted, controlled, trained, supervised, and entrusted the white Ford F-150 XL to an employee who acted negligently and recklessly so as to directly and legally cause the vehicle driven by Defendant CORONA and DOES 1 through 100 to collide with the bicycle driven by BRADLEY ROFER.
- 23. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, and each of them, Decedent BRADLEY ROFER, suffered grave physical injuries on September 1, 2022, that ultimately caused his death on September 5, 2022.
- 24. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' conduct alleged herein, the wrongful death of Decedent, BRADLEY ROFER, occurred.
- 25. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, and each of them, and the death of BRADLEY ROFER, Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER, have been, and will be, deprived of the love, care, society, affection, protection, companionship, guidance, solace, moral support, physical support, and services of their son and protection have thereby sustained, and will continue to sustain, damages in an amount to be shown according to proof.
- 26. As a further direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiffs were compelled to incur expenses for medical and professional

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services and for the funeral and burial of BRADLEY ROFER, in an amount to be shown according to proof.

27. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, Defendant CORONA while operating a vehicle was negligent in the operation of said vehicle and did breach the duty to operate the vehicle with reasonable care thereby causing the vehicle to collide with the bicycle ridden by Decedent BRADLEY ROFER.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

WRONGFUL DEATH OF BRADLEY ROFER - NEGLIGENCE

(On behalf of Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER, individually, and ARON ROFER, individually,

vs. ALL CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., COUNTY OF ORANGE,

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive)

- 28. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 27 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, and every part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set out fully herein.
- 29. At the time this collision occurred and based on information and belief, Plaintiffs hereon allege that two crossing guards, pursuant to a contract between Defendants ACMS, INC., COUNTY, and/or CUSD, and DOES 1 through 100, were assigned at the subject intersection, to assist persons crossing the streets. However, no crossing guard was present at the time of the incident. If there had been a crossing guard present at the time of the incident, the incident could have been prevented.
- 30. Defendants ACMS, INC., COUNTY, and/or CUSD, and DOES 1 through 100, assumed the duty and responsibility to safely monitor, supervise and control the crosswalk where the incident occurred on behalf of students traveling to school, including decedent BRADLEY ROFER and his parents JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER and to use reasonable care and communicate and/or warn of the absence of school crossing guards assigned to the Subject Intersection. Decedent BRADLEY ROFER and his parents JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER relied on that assumption of duty and reasonable care to their great loss.
- 31. Defendants ACMS, INC., COUNTY, CUSD and DOES 1 through 100 were negligent both by their actions and their failure to act.

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- 32. Defendants ACMS, INC., COUNTY, CUSD and DOES 1 through 100 did not act as a reasonably careful person would do in the same situation.
- The negligence of Defendants ACMS, INC., COUNTY, CUSD and DOES 1 33. through 100 caused Plaintiffs' harm and was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm.
- 34. Defendant COUNTY is vicariously liable for the negligence of Defendant, ACMS, INC. and/or Defendant CUSD and its employees due to its control over the activities of ACMS, INC. including the details of the day-to-day activities of that contractor/vendor with Defendant COUNTY.
- 35. Defendant CUSD is vicariously liable for the negligence of Defendant, ACMS, INC. and/or Defendant COUNTY and its employees due to its control over the activities of ACMS, INC. including the details of the day-to-day activities of that contractor/vendor with Defendant ACMS, INC.
- 36. In addition, the Defendants COUNTY, CUSD, and ACMS, INC., and DOES 1 through 100, negligently exercised the control it retained over the crossing guards pursuant to a contract among Defendants.
- 37. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, and each of them, Decedent BRADLEY ROFER, suffered grave physical injuries that ultimately caused his death on September 5, 2022.
- 38. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' conduct alleged herein, the wrongful death of Decedent, BRADLEY ROFER, occurred.
- 39. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, and each of them, and the death of BRADLEY ROFER, Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER, have been, and will be, deprived of the love, care, society, affection, protection, companionship, guidance, solace, moral support, physical support, and services of their son and protection have thereby sustained, and will continue to sustain, damages in an amount to be shown according to proof.
- 40. As a further direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiffs were compelled to incur expenses for medical and professional

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services and for the funeral and burial of BRADLEY ROFER, in an amount to be shown according to proof.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

PERSONAL INJURIES OF BRADLEY ROFER-NEGLIGENCE (On behalf of Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER as successors-in-interest to BRADLEY ROFER vs. All Defendants; and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive)

- 41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through 40 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, and every part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set out fully herein.
- 42. As a direct and legal result of the negligence, carelessness, recklessness, wantonness, and unlawfulness of the Defendants, and each of them, and the resulting permanent injuries, as aforesaid, decedent BRADLEY ROFER sustained severe and serious injury to his person, all to Plaintiffs' damage in a sum within the jurisdiction of this Court and to be shown according to proof.
- 43. By reason of the foregoing, Decedent, Bradley Rofer was required to employ the services of hospitals, physicians, surgeons, nurses, and other professional services including expenses for ambulance service, medicines, x-rays, and other medical supplies and services, all to the damage of plaintiffs in an amount to be shown according to proof.
- 44. Prior to his death and because of this instant incident as detailed above, BRADLEY ROFER suffered from significant non-economic damage, including, but not limited to, pre-death pain, suffering and disfigurement within California Code of Civil Procedure §337.34(b).
- 45. This cause of action is brought on behalf of BRADLEY ROFER through his successors-in-interest, JOSETTE ROFER, and ARON ROFER.

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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

DANGEROUS CONDITION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

(GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 830 and 835)

(On behalf of Plaintiffs JOSETTE ROFER and ARON ROFER, individually and as successors-in-interest to BRADLEY ROFER, vs. COUNTY OF ORANGE and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive)

- 46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through 45 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, and each part thereof, with the same force and effect as though set out fully herein.
- 47. Defendant COUNTY and DOES 1 through 100, controlled and maintained the Subject Intersection at the time of the incident described herein.
- 48. As the planner, designer, controller, supervisor, owner, operator, regulator, and maintenance provider of the Subject Intersection, Defendant COUNTY, and DOES 1 through 100, owed a duty of care to users of these public roadways to maintain and operate them in a reasonable and safe manner including, but not limited to, Decedent, BRADLEY ROFER. Defendants also owed a duty to properly plan and design the roadway and thereafter supervise, maintain, revise, and adjust the conditions of roadways under their control to best protect users from dangerous conditions that roadways can present, including the changed conditions and usage thereof at the intersection where the subject incident occurred.
- 49. At the time and place aforesaid and prior thereto, the aforementioned property was in a dangerous condition which created a substantial risk of injury when it was used with due care in a manner in which it was reasonably foreseeable that it would be used, in that: Defendant COUNTY, among other negligent acts, negligently selected, designed, constructed, supervised, controlled, maintained, operated, oversaw, permitted, staffed and directed the aforesaid roadway, crosswalk, intersection, and its surroundings, or otherwise acted negligently, so as to cause the subject incident. Defendant COUNTY, selected, designed, constructed, supervised, controlled, maintained, operated, oversaw, permitted, staffed and directed the aforesaid roadway, intersection, and its surroundings, as to cause a dangerous condition of public property to exist at the aforesaid

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- 50. Defendant COUNTY should have foreseen the deficiencies in the intersection. combined with the schedule of the COUNTY contracted crossing guards could, and did, result in unreasonable risks to those using the Subject Intersection.
- 51. As a direct and proximate result of the dangerous road conditions at the Subject Intersection, Decedent BRADLEY ROFER suffered grave physical injury and ultimately died because of the injuries he sustained.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFFS PRAY FOR JUDGMENT AGAINST DEFENDANTS, AND EACH OF THEM, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. For non-economic damage for the pre-death pain, suffering, and disfigurement of decedent BRADLEY ROFER, in an amount to be shown according to proof at the time of trial;
 - 2. For special damages according to proof;
 - 3. For personal property damage according to proof;
 - 4. For loss of the services, love, society, care, aid, comfort, companionship and affection of decedent, in a sum in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court;
 - 5. For loss of financial support and contribution from decedent in an amount to be shown according to proof at the time of trial;
 - 6. For all costs of the decedent's funeral, burial and related expenses according to proof;
 - 7. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law, including, but not limited to, Cal. Civ. Code Section 3291;
 - 8. For costs of suit incurred herein; and

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

AITKEN♦AITKEN♦COHN
3 MACARTHUR PLACE, SUITE 800
SANTA ANA, CA 92707

714-434-3600 FACSIMILE

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EXHIBIT 1

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EXHIBIT 1

DECLARATION OF JOSETTE ROFER PURSUANT TO SECTION 377.32

OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

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DECLARATION OF JOSETTE ROFER

I, Josette Rofer, declare as follows:

- I am over the age of 18 years. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this Declaration, and if called as a witness I could and would testify competently to the truth of the facts stated herein.
- 2. I am the mother of Bradley Rofer who died on September 5, 2022, in Mission Viejo, California.
- No proceeding is now pending in the State of California for the administration of 3. the Estate of Bradley Rofer.
- 4. I am authorized to act as Successor-in-interest to Bradley Rofer, as defined in Section 377.11 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and succeed to his interest in the aboveentitled proceeding.
- 5. Other than the father of Bradley Rofer, Aron Rofer, no other person has a superior right to commence the above-entitled proceeding or to be substituted for Bradley Rofer in the above-entitled proceeding.
- A certified copy of the Certificate of Death for Bradley Rofer is attached hereto as 6. Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this **29** day of August 2023 at Coto De Caza, California.

EXHIBIT A

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EXHIBIT A

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ORANGE

This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the office of the VITAL RECORDS SECTION, ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY.

DATE ISSUED September 9, 2022

REGINA CHINSIO-KWONG, DO HEALTH OFFICER ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying seal and signature of Registra

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE



EXHIBIT 2

PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER

EXHIBIT 2

DECLARATION OF ARON ROFER PURSUANT TO SECTION 377.32

OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

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DECLARATION OF ARON ROFER

I, Aron Rofer, declare as follows:

- I am over the age of 18 years. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained in 1. this Declaration, and if called as a witness I could and would testify competently to the truth of the facts stated herein.
- I am the father of Bradley Rofer who died on September 5, 2022, in Mission Viejo, 2. California.
- 3. No proceeding is now pending in the State of California for the administration of the Estate of Bradley Rofer.
- I am authorized to act as Successor-in-interest to Bradley Rofer, as defined in 4. Section 377.11 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and succeed to his interest in the aboveentitled proceeding.
- Other than the mother of Bradley Rofer, Josette Rofer, no other person has a 5. superior right to commence the above-entitled proceeding or to be substituted for Bradley Rofer in the above-entitled proceeding.
- A certified copy of the Certificate of Death for Bradley Rofer is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 29 day of August 2023 at Coto De Caza, California.

Aron Rofer

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EXHIBIT A

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EXHIBIT A

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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