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This statement may be attributed to Lisa E. Mandel, Interim Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services

Yesterday, I was notified by our partners at the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) that DCFS employee Michael Rose, 45, had been arrested following a criminal investigation into allegations involving inappropriate conduct with minors.

The safety and well-being of children and families is the foundation of our mission, and allegations of this nature are deeply disturbing and taken with the utmost seriousness. DCFS has fully cooperated with LAPD throughout their criminal investigation.

Upon learning of the allegations in April 2026, DCFS immediately placed Rose on restriction from field work pending the outcome of a meticulous administrative investigation, which included retaining an outside law firm to conduct a thorough review of his employment history and instances during which Rose might have been in contact with children and young people in foster care.

Given the gravity of the allegations, and pending the completion of our investigation, Rose was subsequently placed on administrative leave and ordered not to have contact with children, youth or families who receive services from DCFS.

I recognize that news like this is deeply concerning. As a department, we are committed to acting swiftly when concerns are raised, working closely with our law enforcement partners, and taking every appropriate step available to protect the children and families we serve.

Because this is now an active criminal matter and involves confidential information, there are legal limits on what we can share publicly. While I know the community wants answers, those confidentiality protections exist to preserve the integrity of the investigation and protect the privacy of those involved.

Anyone with information or concerns regarding potential misconduct by a Los Angeles County employee or contractor may report it confidentially by calling 2-1-1 or submitting a report at 211la.org/report-sexualabuse. Suspected child abuse or neglect involving any child should be reported immediately to the DCFS Child Protection Hotline at 1-800-540-4000.

Our commitment to protecting children remains unwavering, and we will continue to cooperate fully with law enforcement as this case moves through the criminal legal process. Questions regarding the criminal investigation may be directed to LAPD.

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