



Juvenile Justice Commission
Delinquency Prevention Commission

Joint Meeting
Tuesday, April 29, 2025
5:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Location and Public participation instructions attached

AGENDA

Note: Commissioner Shakeel Ali will participate via teleconference from the Capitol Hilton, 1001 16th Street NW, Washington DC, 20026. Hotel Room number will be posted electronically at or prior to commission meeting.

Public comment will be accommodated under Item II for items not on the agenda. The Commission requests that members of the public, who wish to comment on items on the agenda, submit a request to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting or raise their hand to speak, so that they may be recognized at the appropriate time.

I. Preliminary Business

- a. Call to Order
- b. Translation Services for JJDPC meetings
- c. Swearing in of Jiya Venkatesh
- d. Roll Call and Establish Quorum
- e. Agenda Review and Approval
- f. Vote on the candidacy of Asteris Ling
- g. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - March 25, 2025

II. Oral Communications - Public Comment

This item provides an opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda (Time limit – three (3) minutes per person. There will be opportunity for public comment on agenda items as they are considered.

Hon. Susan Etezadi
Presiding Judge
Juvenile Court

David Canepa
Board of Supervisors
District 5

Judith Holiber
Deputy County Counsel

Commissioners

Johanna Rasmussen
Chair

Karin Huber-Levy
Vice Chair
Administration

Whitney Genevro
Vice Chair
Membership

Jennifer Blanco

Paul Bocanegra

Niklas Klemmer

Ruchi Mangtani

Ameya Nori

Shakeel Ali

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Kenneth Williams



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III. Updates from System Partners

- a. Private Defender Program- Ron Rayes
- b. District Attorney - Nadia Hahn
- c. Probation Department - Ivone Bustos
- d. County Office of Education – Sarah Notch
- e. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services –Ornit Shohan
- f. FLY–Fresh Lifelines for Youth - Maria Delgado
- g. HSA–Children & Family Services – John Fong

IV. Receive a Presentation on “Project Change” Program

- a. Presentation by Project Change staff, students, and partners.

V. New Projects – Discuss and Establish Project Teams

- a. Revise Handbook: “How to Help Your Child After an Arrest”
- b. Brochure: When You Turn 18 - A Legal Survival Guide
- c. Commission Newsletter: Quarterly Publication

VI. 2025 Inspections

- a. Inspection Team Update
- b. Meeting with President Canepa

VII. Liaison Updates

- a. JJCC: 2025 Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Plan
- b. Statewide Juvenile Justice Commissioner Meeting
- c. Legislative Update:
 - o SB48: Keep Schools Safe – Letter of Support
 - o AB22: Juvenile Transfers

VIII. Announcements

- a. Statewide Juvenile Justice Commissioner Meeting
- b. Lost Childhoods Art Exhibit: Redwood City Library

IX. Adjournment



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Delinquency Prevention Commission

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Public Participation Instructions

Join In Person

Meeting Location

Manzanita Hall
500 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City, Ca. 94063

The only entrance to Manzanita Hall is located outside of the building, on the side of the building facing Marshall Street.

Join Zoom Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/83575640750>

Webinar ID: 835 7564 0750

Spanish translation services are available via Zoom videoconference

If you wish to speak to the Commission during public comment, you may raise your hand using Zoom with the Reactions button at the bottom of your screen, or indicate that you would like to speak if you are attending in person. If you have any materials that you wish distributed to the Commission and included in the official record, please send them via email to sanmateojjdpc@gmail.com, prior to the meeting and attach the materials.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 29, 2025, 5:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held in the same location each month.

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Connie Juarez-Diroll cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable the county to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it. attendees to this meeting are reminded that other attendees.

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Kenneth Williams



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

222 Paul Scannell Drive • San Mateo, CA 94402 • (650) 312-5254

APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION

Special Requirements: **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS APPLICANT:**

- 1. HAS ATTENDED TWO (2) MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 2. IS A RESIDENT OF SAN MATEO COUNTY**

Information provided on this application is public information and may be made available to other applicants, members of the press, or to the general public.

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO ATTEND COMMISSION MEETINGS, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED THE **LAST TUESDAY** OF THE MONTH FROM 5:15 P.M. TO 7:15 P.M.? YES NO

NAME: Asteris Ling EMAIL: [REDACTED] PHONE: [REDACTED]

STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ZIP CODE: 94065 CITY: Redwood City NEIGHBORHOOD:

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY: 16

WHICH MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED? February 25, 2025 and March 25, 2025

HOW DID YOU BECOME AWARE OF THE OPENING? Through the website while looking into county government. :)

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING THIS APPOINTMENT? Serving on the Teen Advisory Board really opened my eyes to the need to advocate for the youth in my community in our government that is meant to work for all people. Hearing about some of my peers and other youth in the community interact or come close to interacting negatively with the juvenile justice system and all of the other struggles that they may face has made me interested in voicing their concerns. I hope that the JJPDC can enable me to advocate for those in my community and ensure that our community is as proactive and supportive of the youth as possible.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Currently a sophomore at Carlmont High School



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me to advocate for those in my community and ensure that our community is as proactive and supportive of the youth as possible.
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Currently a sophomore at Carlmont High School

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: _____

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYER'S ADDRESS: _____

CIVIC ACTIVITIES (Please include present or past membership on boards, committees, and participation in the activities of community groups and organizations.):

Redwood City Teen Advisory Board

Youth Police Department Town Hall

People's Panel with local officials

Community outreach/interactions through some presentations and tabling at youth events, food distribution events, and other community-wide events such as the OYE conference

Organizing and encouraging overall community participation in Redwood City teen talks

Led and advocated for youth input on the racial equity mural

WHAT STRENGTHS AND SKILLS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE COMMISSION? (Include languages.)

Current high school Spanish biliteracy

Interest in improving the lives of my peers at school through advocacy and education and strengthening connections with schools in the county

Connections to youth in the community and facilitating and fostering community input focused on youth

HAVE YOU WORKED WITH OR ADVOCATED FOR YOUTH? (Please describe.)

On the Redwood City Teen Advisory Board, I have interacted extensively with the youth in the community and hoped to bring their

voices to the decisions that City Council and other departments of the city make. This past year, our board worked with the Redwood

City Police Advisory Committee to host and facilitate a police town hall at a local high school to gather youth input and feedback on the

police as well as some other topics. The town hall produced some really important feedback and really solidified my belief that the youth in our

community will always have input to offer, it's just up to us to be there to listen and make sure that they have all the possible opportunities to share their thoughts.

DO YOU OR HAVE YOU HAD A PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH SOMEONE IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM? (Please provide context):

At my school and other high schools in the county, there are people that I know that have interacted with the

juvenile justice system and they have talked about the impact that it has on their educational progress and

performance both during and after their interactions with the system.

OF OUR CURRENT PROJECTS, WHICH ARE MOST INTERESTING TO YOU AND WHY?

Identifying substance abuse treatment programs for youth really appeals to me as many of my peers at school know of or are personally dealing

with substance abuse and have seen it affect many different facets of their life. Outreach to underserved youths and families is also really

interesting to me as it seems to reflect some of what the teen advisory board has done and I really think that the juvenile justice programs could

benefit from more outreach with the community whether it is something like providing information at public events or holding an outright event to collect feedback.

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE TO DEVOTE TO COMMISSION WORK?

Besides weekdays during the day when there is school, most other times I can be available or make time

to dedicate to the commission.

Asteris Ling

Signature

3/26/25

Date

This application may remain on file for six months from the date of submission.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL OR EMAIL TO:

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission
C/O Adriana Castaneda, Administrative Secretary III
San Mateo County Probation Department
222 Paul Scannell Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402

Email: acastaneda@smcgov.org



**Juvenile Justice Commission and
Delinquency Prevention Commission
MINUTES of Joint Meeting
March 25, 2025 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

- I. Preliminary Business**
- a. Call to Order: Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm.
 - b. Bo Unga, County Clerk, gave instructions for Spanish translation services.
 - c. **Commissioners Present:** Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership, Ruchi Mangtani, Shakeel Ali, Jennifer Blanco, Paul Bocanegra, Ameya Nori (joined 5:39pm), and Kenneth Williams. A quorum was established.

Commissioners Absent: Whitney Genevro, Niklas Klemmer, and Tiffany Uhila-Hautau.

Staff Present: Bo Unga, Kenny Chu, from County of San Mateo, Clerk's Office

Juvenile Court: Hon. Sharon Cho, San Mateo County Juvenile Court Judge

System Partners Present:
Private Defender's Office - Ron Rayes
District Attorney's Office - Nadia Hahn
Probation - John Keene, Jehan Clark, Moniay Wade, Nora Cullen, Sanam Aram, Becky Powers, Ivonne Bustos
OYCR (Office of Youth and Community Restoration) - Darius Parakh
BHRS (Behavioral Health & Recovery Services) - Regina Moreno
County Office of Education - Sarah Notch
FLY (Fresh Lifelines for Youth) - Melissa Poling, Tatiana Casteneda, Maria Delgado Cruz, ChrisBeth Cortez-Lopez
Children & Family Services - [absent]
Youth Liaison - [absent]
 - d. **Meeting Agenda and Minutes**
 - a. **M:** Bocanegra **S:** Huber-Levy, to approve the Agenda for March 25, 2025. Passed unanimously.
 - b. **M:** Huber-Levy **S:** Mangtani, to approve the January 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Passed unanimously.
 - e. **Vote on the Candidacy of Jiya Venkatesh**
M: Mangtani, to approve the candidacy of Jiya Venkatesh for Commissioner. Passed unanimously.



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II. Oral Communications-Public Comment: none

III. Updates From System Partners

a. **Private Defender**— report for March:

- s.602 assignments - 58 cases assigned: 18 detentions, 12 with 707(b)¹ allegations
- out of custody arraignments - 31 cases: 9 with 707(b) allegations
- assisted with record sealings - 9 cases (after probation terms completed, youth qualified to have records sealed under WIC 786 or 781)
- Youth Miranda Rights Hotline - 17 calls from arresting law enforcement agencies, 16 consultations: 9 youth aged 16-17 yrs/ 8 under 15 yrs; 14 minor youth elected to remain silent.

Re Miranda Protections for Youth (SB 203): Chief Keene took opportunity to check in regarding any ongoing issues of youth questioned by departments after being booked into facilities. Mr Rayes noted that only one recent issue (last month), of which Chief Keene was already aware, where youth who had representation was called for questioning. In that case, Mr Rayes noted that probation had acted swiftly to protect the youth's rights. Chief Keene emphasized the importance of ensuring everyone in contact with youth at any stage of process is informed of youths' Miranda rights.

b. **Probation**— report for March:

Staffing update: to recap, Jehan Clarke is Dep. Chief, Juvenile Services; Moniyay Wade is Dep. Chief, Institutions. New changes as of 3/31: Nora Cullen, current Asst. Dep. Chief, Juvenile Services, is returning to Adult Services; Becky Powers is taking over as Asst. Dep. Chief, Juvenile Services. Sanam Aram, current Superintendent, Institutions, is retiring; Ivonne Bustos is taking over as Superintendent, Institutions.

Probation:

- 163 youth at court/on diversion; 183 on supervision (346 total)
- 20 youth on EMD (electronic monitoring devices): 15 male/5 female, all SMC.

¹ 707(b) Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC): considered serious offences in the criminal justice system (robbery, murder, attempted murder).



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Juvenile Hall:

Total population: 35 youth - 33 male / 2 female (in three housing units)

- 5 male SYTF (Secure Youth Treatment Facility) youth
- 4 out-of-county youth (2 Santa Clara; 2 San Francisco)
- Racial composition: 26 Hispanic youth/ 2 African American/ 1 Pacific Islander/ 3 Other

Re Diversion Programs: Chief Keene noted that Probation's goal is to have no youth enter system, and support intervention at local jurisdiction level for police, school, and city-led diversion programs. There is an embedded probation officer with San Mateo police department to facilitate growth of their program. Currently, Redwood City and South San Francisco also have programs. City of Atherton is also in early discussions to develop a diversion program - unique space due to busing of youth into Atherton.

Re Request for Data: Chief Keene noted that they are working on a template to provide consistent monthly data to the Commission, and as it also needs to be compatible with Probation's current internal processes, it may differ from that provided in the past.

- c. **Youth Liaison Report** - on May 28, there will be a graduation for 4 high school and 3 college students.
- d. **County Office of Education** - Sarah Notch reported that the Career Technical Education master class session has concluded and was very successful. COE board members had the opportunity to observe results and this was very impactful. The session included writing books, programming drones, making board games, designing houses and landscaping. Also, in partnership with probation, students ran a CTE culinary cafe out of the professional kitchen. There was a 100% pass rate for food handler certification and for the culinary class.

COE is now over half way through curriculum pilots for science and social studies and will present recommendations to COE board in late spring for adoption.



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- Commissioner Bocanegra asked about job referrals - Ms Notch noted that Jonas Barbour, Transition Services Coordinator provides support linking youth with employment contacts and referrals.
 - Commissioner Blanco requested that in the future Commissioners could be invited to CTE student presentations.
- e. **BHRS** - Regina Moreno noted that their student intern has finished her term, having provided valuable support on AOD and mental health services in juvenile hall. BHRS provides services for the 35 youth currently in the hall and for youth in the community who receive referrals from probation.

IV. FLY – Overview of Programs Offered in Juvenile Hall in SMC: Melissa Poling (Director, FLY SMC, SF), Tatiana Casteneda (Lead Case Manager, Secure Track Program), Chrisbeth Cortes-Lopez (Re-Entry Lead Case Manager), and Maria Delgado Cruz (Assoc. Director SMC, SF) provided an overview of the services that FLY provides in SMC juvenile hall.

FLY commenced working in SMC in 2005, and currently provide 6 programs in Hillcrest Juvenile Hall:

- **Law Program** (12 weeks) for all high school students in Hall - served 90+ youth in Hall over past year
- **Leadership Program** for all youth
- **REPS** (Rehabilitation, Education, & Planning for Success) for SYTF youth - currently have 7 youth, led by Harold Atkins at Success Center
- **Re-Entry Program** for 12-18 yr olds
- **Development Plan Goals** for all youth
- **STAY FLY Re-Entry Program** for 18-25 yr olds

V. Liaison Updates

a. Education Update

Commissioner Blanco shared the video of the 2024 OYE Conference in SMC, and shared details of the 2025 OYE Conference held on March 22nd at Canada College. She noted it is free and a valuable resource for youth leadership experience in our county and is open to all students, not limited to Latino students. Chair Rasmussen agreed that the Commission should have a table at the event next year, and planning for this should start early in 2026.



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VI. Inspection Updates

Chair Rasmussen noted that the inspection cycle this year will cover July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025. All Commissioners should sign up within the next 10 days for a specific inspection on the sign up roster document on the JJDPC Google drive. Experienced Commissioners should sign up as inspection lead.

VII. Announcements

- Two Statewide JJDPC meetings, convened by Chair Rasmussen, have already taken place; these meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 - 1 pm by Zoom.
- The OYE 2024 video will be available to view by link on the JJDPC website.

Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm.

Submitted: 4/21/25, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice-Chair, Administration



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Commission

**Presentation: Project Change in the
San Mateo County Community College District**

The JJJPC will receive a presentation from Project Change staff, students, and partners about the program.

Project Change in the SMCCCD was the first community college-based program in California to provide wrap-around student support services and direct pathways to higher education for youth impacted by the juvenile justice system. The program connects students to resources and programs at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College, such as social and academic support services, culturally relevant learning communities, and certificate, degree and transfer pathways. A supportive network of faculty and staff mentors assist students with navigating their college career all the way through completion of their educational goals. This program unites SMCCCD, the San Mateo County Probation Department, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE), and community organizations together in a joint effort to help juvenile justice system impacted populations of students make the successful transition to higher education in the community college district.

Project Change Meeting Attendees and Speakers

- Katie Bliss, Directing Advocate, Pathways to Higher Education, Youth Law Center
- Tiffany Cauyong, College of San Mateo Project Change Student
- Maria Hernandez, Cañada College Project Change Student
- Wesley Hingano, Retention Specialist, Project Change, College of San Mateo
- Maria Huning, TRIO Director, Cañada College
- Dr. Aaron McVean, Vice Chancellor, Educational Services & Planning, San Mateo County Community College District
- Miriam Mosqueda, Program Services Coordinator, Project Change, Cañada College
- Dr. Stacy Nojima Gutierrez, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Planning, San Mateo County Community College District
- Diva Ward, Director of Strategic Grant Initiatives, San Mateo County Community College District
- Mario Wash, Program Services Coordinator, Project Change, Skyline College

WHEN YOU TURN

18

A Legal Survival Guide

CALIFORNIA
LAWYERS

FOUNDATION

REACHING THE AGE OF MAJORITY

The age of majority is a term used to describe the time in life after which a person is legally no longer considered a child. Historically, the age of majority was set at 21 in most states. But after the 1971 ratification of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving 18-year-olds the right to vote in federal elections, most states, including California, lowered their age of majority to 18. (FC § 6502; 52 USC § 10701).

This does not, however, mean that you now have all the rights and privileges available to adults. Some come at an earlier age, while others come later. For example, you may be issued a provisional driver's license at age 16, but you cannot purchase alcoholic beverages until age 21. What the age of majority has really come to mean is that point when an individual is treated as an adult for most purposes.



AT THE AGE OF MAJORITY, TEENAGERS ACQUIRE THE RIGHT TO:

- Enter into binding contracts.
- Buy or sell property, including real estate and stock.
- Marry without the written consent of a parent (or guardian) and a judge.
- Sue or be sued in their own names.
- Compromise, settle or arbitrate a claim.
- Make or revoke a will.
- Inherit property outright.
- Vote in federal, state and local elections.
- Consent to all types of medical treatment.
- Join the military without parental consent.

MOVING OUT

You may be renting your first apartment. You may be going away to college and leasing an apartment with other students. Or you may be saving up for the day when you can afford to move out on your own. In any case, you should know your rights and obligations if you plan to rent a place to live.

ARE ALL RENTAL AGREEMENTS ALIKE?

No. You might sign a lease — a contract that sets the conditions for renting the apartment — for a specific time period. Or the landlord may rent the apartment to you on a month-to-month basis. (Even with a month-to-month rental, however, your landlord must give you certain advance notice if he or she plans to raise your rent or ask you to move out.)

In addition, check the local rules for rental housing. Some cities have special ordinances limiting how much the rent can be raised and the situations in which a tenant can be evicted.

MUST A LEASE BE WRITTEN TO BE ENFORCEABLE?

Not unless the lease is for longer than one year.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF PUTTING IT IN WRITING?

With a written lease, you will have:

- A better idea of your rights and obligations.
- Some protection against dishonesty.



- Some protection against poor memory.

Printed-form leases, however, often favor the landlord. Keep in mind that you don't have to use the forms as printed. If your landlord agrees, you can modify the form to suit your situation. And if any outdated, legally invalid rules do appear in the signed lease, you are not bound by them.

WHAT IS A SECURITY DEPOSIT?

It is money that the landlord holds as security against property damages, unclean conditions and unpaid rent. A written lease usually outlines the way in which a security deposit will be handled and what the tenant — the person renting the apartment — needs to do to get it back. Check your local ordinances; they may regulate security deposits. The owner must return all of your security deposit no later than three weeks after you move, or tell you in writing why you will not get it back. Also, he or she must account for how your money was spent. (CC § 1950.5)

WHAT IF I DON'T PAY MY RENT ON TIME?

If you do not pay your rent when it is due, your landlord can give you a notice to pay up or leave within three days.

IS THE LANDLORD REQUIRED TO KEEP MY APARTMENT IN GOOD SHAPE?

The landlord's general duty, unless your lease says otherwise, is to keep the premises in a "reasonable state of repair." However, if something is damaged and the damage was your fault, you would be responsible for the repair. (CC §§ 1941.1, 1941.2)

You cannot be legally evicted for simply reporting building code violations to your local building inspector. When conditions are so bad that the premises are "uninhabitable," you should consult an attorney about possible claims against the landlord and about whether you can move out and avoid further rent. (CC §§ 1941-1942.5; H&SC § 17920.3)

CAN MY LANDLORD ENTER MY APARTMENT WITHOUT ASKING ME?

Yes, but only to protect the premises in emergencies or unusual situations. If a bathtub overflows in the apartment above yours, for example, the owner could check your apartment for water damage even if you are not home. The owner could enter your apartment during normal business hours for certain other reasons as well if he or she has provided a 24-hour written notice. For example, if you plan to move, the owner has a right to show the apartment to prospective tenants. Or the owner might need to have an electrician check the wiring. Any other such entry (without your permission or without advance notice) may be trespassing. (CC § 1954)

IF I DECIDE TO MOVE, DO I HAVE TO GIVE THE LANDLORD ANY ADVANCE NOTICE?

Yes. You must give reasonable notice before the end of a rental period — in most cases, that's a month's notice. However, if you would be breaking your lease by moving out, the requirements would depend on the terms of the lease. You could wind up liable for the period that the apartment remains unoccupied. (CC §§ 1946, 1951.2)

CAN MY LANDLORD EVICT ME?

It depends on your situation. Do you have a lease? Are you renting your apartment month-to-month? Did you violate your rental agreement? For more information, see the State Bar pamphlet *What Should I Know Before I Rent?*

IF I SIGN A LEASE WITH THREE FRIENDS AND THEY MOVE OUT, DO I HAVE TO PAY THE FULL RENT OR ONLY MY SHARE?

It depends on what your lease says. You will probably have to pay the full rent. You would then have a claim against your friends and could sue them.



IF I BREAK A LEASE, CAN I BE SUED?

You can probably be sued for:

- All unpaid rent.
- Any physical damage, including unusual cleaning expenses.
- Advertising expenses and other costs of re-renting the apartment.
- The landlord's attorney fees, if the lease provides for it. (CC § 1717)

CAN A LANDLORD LEGALLY REFUSE TO RENT TO ME BECAUSE OF MY RACE OR DISABILITY?

No. It is against the law to discriminate in renting, leasing or selling housing on the basis of race, national origin, sex, marital status, color, religion, sexual orientation or disability. (CC §§ 51-53, 1940.3; Govt.C § 12955)

TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR TEENS IN FOSTER CARE

In the past, teens in foster care typically “aged out” of the system at age 18 and wound up on their own. But under new legislation, foster youth are eligible for extended support and benefits until they turn 21 if they meet certain criteria. (WIC § 10609.3)

GETTING AROUND

You may already have a driver's license, but now that you are 18, the law applies to you differently. For example, you can now be employed as a driver. On the other hand, being caught with a beer or other alcoholic beverage — whether you are in a car or far from one — could still result in the temporary loss of your driving privileges.

The greatest change may be that the law now holds you (not your parents) responsible for your actions. At age 18, you assume liability for your own traffic violations or accidents. It is your responsibility to know and follow the rules of the road described in the California Driver Handbook. When you were younger, your parents could be held legally responsible for at least some damages and financial losses caused by your actions.

DO I NEED MY OWN CAR INSURANCE?

It depends on your circumstances. By law, the car that you drive must be insured. And you must carry proof of insurance or certain other financial responsibility when driving. (VC § 16020) Typically, your parents could simply add you to their policy if you are living at home and will be driving the family car. But if you plan to move out or go away to college and take the car with you, your parents should contact their insurance agent or insurance company to discuss the change. Depending on the situation, you might need to purchase your own insurance at that point.

If you buy a car on your own, you will need your own insurance. And it is a good idea to bring proof of it (or certain other financial responsibility) with you to the DMV when you register your car. Also, when you buy a car, you will receive the California Certificate of Title (commonly known as the pink slip) as your proof of ownership. The seller is required to sign the pink slip and notify the DMV within five days to finalize the transfer and be discharged from liability. You, as the buyer, must record the pink slip with the DMV within 10 days. (VC §§ 4150, 5600, 5900, 5902). For more detailed information on California's car insurance requirements and low-cost automobile insurance program, go to dmv.ca.gov or call **1-800-777-0133**.

...GETTING AROUND...

IF I DON'T ALREADY HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE AT AGE 18, HOW DO I GET ONE?

First of all, you no longer have to meet the special requirements and restrictions that apply to younger drivers. For example, you do not have to complete formal driver's education or training to apply for a driver's license. Instead, you must simply:

- Complete a Driver License or Identification Card Application and pay a nonrefundable fee.
- Give your true full name.
- Give a fingerprint scan.
- Pass a vision exam.
- Provide your Social Security number or other appropriate identifier.
- Verify your birth date and legal presence.
- Have your picture taken.
- Pass a written exam on traffic laws and signs.
- Sign a declaration that you will take a chemical test if requested.

You will then be issued an instruction permit that will allow you to drive on public roads if accompanied by someone over 18 years old. (He or she must be sitting close enough to grab the steering wheel if necessary.) Then, to get your actual driver's license, you must pass a driving test and provide proof of financial responsibility. For more information, visit the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website at dmv.ca.gov.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A MOTORCYCLE LICENSE?

Yes. If you are between 18 and 21, you would have to complete an approved motorcycle rider training class before applying for a permit. Then you would have to have the permit for six months before such a license could be issued. Also, keep in mind that you must wear an approved helmet when riding a motorcycle — either as the driver or passenger — or you would be breaking the law. (VC §§ 12509.5, 27803)

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I DRIVE AFTER DRINKING A BEER OR TWO?

You would be putting yourself and others in danger. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds. Statistics suggest that more than one-third of fatal car crashes involving 16- to 20-year-olds are related to drunk driving.

In addition, it is illegal for anyone to drive under the influence of alcohol. If you are under 21, you cannot drive with a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.01 percent or higher. Drivers who are 21 or older cannot have a BAC of 0.08 percent or more. (VC §§ 23136, 23152(b))

If a police officer stops you for driving under the influence, he or she can administer a breath, blood or urine test to determine your blood-alcohol level. If you refuse to take the test, you could face serious penalties. You could be fined or jailed and have your

driver's license suspended or revoked for up to three years. (VC §§ 13353.1, 23136, 23612)

Also, you could still be convicted of DUI even if a breath, blood or urine test is not performed. A chemical test is not required for a conviction if the judge or jury concludes that the person under age 21 drank alcohol and drove a vehicle. And if you are convicted, it could mean a stiff fine, jail time and even suspension or revocation of your driver's license. (VC §§ 23140, 23536)

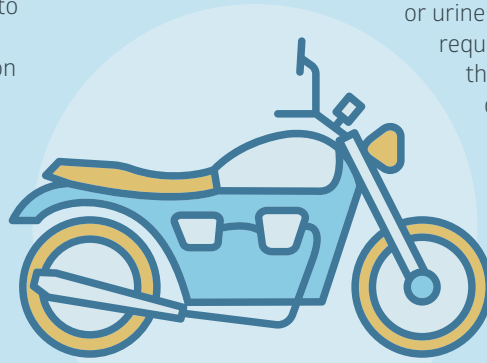
WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF POLICE CATCH ME DRINKING ALCOHOL AT A PARTY?

If you are under 21 and are cited, you could wind up with a suspended driver's license — even if you were nowhere near a car at the time. Young people between 13 and 21 can have their licenses suspended, restricted or delayed for up to one year for each offense related to the possession, consumption or purchase of alcohol. (B&PC §§ 25658, 25662; VC § 13202.5)

DO BICYCLE RIDERS HAVE TO FOLLOW THE SAME TRAFFIC LAWS AS MOTORISTS?

Yes, for the most part. Bicycle riders must stop at stop signs and red lights, ride on the proper side of the street, use bicycle lanes and give the right-of-way to all pedestrians. In addition, it is illegal to ride a bike while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Nighttime bicyclists must have a bike equipped with a white front light, red rear reflector, pedal reflectors and side reflectors or reflectorized tires. Wearing earbuds, earphones or a radio headset covering both ears is prohibited while riding a bike. And the number of people who can ride on a bike is limited to the number of seats. It is against the law to ride on someone's handlebars or center frame bar or over the rear tire. (VC §§ 21201, 27400, 21204)



LAWS THAT YOUNG DRIVERS SHOULD KNOW:

RECKLESS DRIVING: California law prohibits driving a vehicle on a highway or in an off-street parking facility in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of others or property. It also provides for more severe punishment for reckless drivers who cause injuries. (VC §§ 23103, 23104)

SPEED CONTESTS: Speed contests are against the law. A judge can suspend or restrict a first-time offender's driver's license for up to six months, impound the vehicle for 30 days and send the driver to jail for 90 days, as well as impose fines and community service. And if someone other than the driver is injured, the driver could face stiffer penalties. (VC §§ 23109-23109.2)

LITTERING AND THROWING OBJECTS AT OR FROM A VEHICLE:

California law makes it a misdemeanor to throw anything at or from a moving vehicle, and a felony to do so if the intent is to seriously harm someone. The law also prohibits littering or throwing lighted cigarettes from a motor vehicle; the penalties for doing so range from a \$100 fine to a \$1,000 fine and an order to pick up litter or clean graffiti for a first conviction. (VC §§ 23110-12, 42001.7)

HIT AND RUN: In California, you must stop after any accident in which someone is injured or another person's property is damaged. You also must exchange names, addresses, driver's licenses, vehicle licenses and other relevant information. If anyone is injured or dies in the collision, the accident must be reported within 24 hours to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) or to police. When property damage alone is involved, the maximum penalty for failing to report such damage or notify the property owner is six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. If someone is injured, the penalty could be as stiff as a \$10,000 fine and/or one year in jail, in addition to any liability for the injury. (VC §§ 20001-08)

DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE: It is a misdemeanor to drive without a valid driver's license or permit in California. Also, by law, you must have your license with you when you drive. And if you drive with a suspended or revoked license, you could face up to six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine for a first conviction. (VC §§ 12500-27, 40000.11(b))

CELL PHONES AND DRIVING: It is against the law to use a cell phone while driving unless the device allows voice-operated and hands-free operation. It is illegal for anyone to use an "electronic wireless communications device" to text or write, send or read any other type of "text-based communication while driving." (Simply entering a phone number or name to make or receive a call would be an exception.) (VC §§ 23123, 23123.5, 23124)

SEAT BELTS/CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS: It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle unless the driver and all passengers are properly restrained by safety belts. (VC § 27315) Violators can be fined. Children must be secured in federally approved safety seats until they are 8 years old. It is also recommended that children 8 to 12 years old be strapped into booster seats until they are big enough to fit properly in a seat belt. Children under 8 must sit in a back seat, if there is one, unless all rear seats are

already occupied by children under 7. Children who are under two years old must be restrained in a rear-facing car seat unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. Children in rear facing car sets are not permitted to ride in the front seat with an active air bag. (VC §§ 27360-27360.5, 27363) For more information, call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 800-424-9393 or go to safercar.gov.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN: It is against the law to leave a child (age 6 or younger) unattended in a motor vehicle if the child will be at risk or if the engine is running and the keys are in the ignition. In such situations, the child must be supervised by a responsible person age 12 or older. (VC § 15620; PC §§ 192, 273a)

ROAD RAGE: A driver might cut you off and nearly cause an accident, but avoid taking matters into your own hands. Road rage can result in a six-month suspension of your driver's license (first offense) and an order to complete a "road rage" course, and could even land you in jail. You could be charged with assault with a deadly weapon and face up to four years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. (VC § 13210; PC § 245(a))

SMOKING, CARS AND KIDS: Do not smoke a tobacco or nicotine product (e.g. pipe, cigar, cigarette or vaping device) in a vehicle — whether it is moving or parked — if anyone under 18 is in the car. If you light up with an underage youth on board, you could be cited for an infraction and fined up to \$100. (H&SC §§ 118947-118949)

BLARING MUSIC AND LOUD HORNS: Think twice before cranking up your car's sound system or misusing your horn while on the road. Such noise could lead to a ticket or even, in some instances, misdemeanor charges. Generally, the car horn can only be used as a warning "when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation" of the car or as a theft alarm system. And your music (or other sound amplification system) is too loud if it can be heard from 50 feet away. This would not apply to certain sound systems, such as those used for emergencies, advertising or political events. (VC §§ 27001, 27007; PC § 415)

PASSENGERS IN THE TRUNK: Riding in the trunk of a car is illegal. In recent years, teens have been hurt and, in some cases, killed while riding in car trunks. If a driver allows someone to ride in the trunk, he or she has broken the law as well. (VC § 21712)

OBSCURING YOUR LICENSE PLATE: It is illegal to use or sell any product (such as a special coating) intended to obscure the reading of a car license plate by certain electronic devices. Such electronic devices include, for example, those operated by law enforcement and those used in connection with toll roads, high-occupancy toll lanes and toll bridges. Selling or using any such product could lead to a fine. (VC §§ 5201(d), 5201.1)

DRIVING WITH A GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS): Mount a GPS carefully. If placed on the windshield, it can only be placed in a seven-inch square in the lower corner farthest away from the driver or in a five-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield closest to the driver. (VC § 26708(b)(12))

HAVING FUN

As a young adult, you will have many new opportunities for fun and games. Keep in mind, however, that there are legal limits.

For example, if your parties "disturb the peace," a police officer may be knocking on your door. If you disrupt a professional sporting event by throwing something onto the field, you could face a fine. And if you are subjected to dangerous rituals during your initiation into a college fraternity, someone could wind up in jail.

WHEN WOULD A PARTY BE DISRUPTIVE ENOUGH TO ILLEGALLY DISTURB THE PEACE?

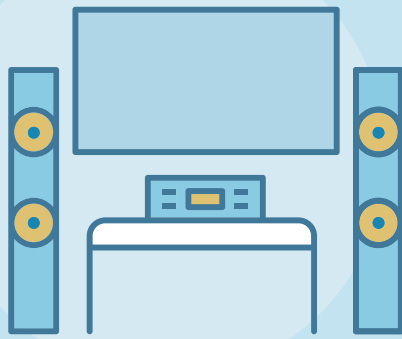
Police officers could break up your party—and, depending on the circumstances, make arrests—if the festivities include: fighting, loud music, rowdiness and/or loud, unreasonable noise. (PC § 415)

WHAT CAN I DO IF STRANGERS "CRASH" MY PARTY?

You can ask police to kick them out. Crashing a party is trespassing and is illegal. (PC §, 602.5)

ARE THERE LEGAL LIMITS TO WHAT CAN HAPPEN DURING A COLLEGE FRATERNITY INITIATION?

Yes. It is against the law for any initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization to involve hazing. Hazing is defined as any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization which causes (or is likely to cause) physical danger or harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any former, current, or prospective student of any



educational institution in California. Express or implied consent of the victim is not a defense. If you participate in hazing, whether actively or by acquiescence, you could be fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned. (PC § 245.6; 5 CFR 41301) You could also be liable for civil damages.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I'M CAUGHT SPRAY-PAINTING GRAFFITI?

Expressing yourself with spray paint on someone else's property could land you in jail, or even prison, and could cost you as much as \$50,000 in fines, depending on the extent of damage. You also could be required to pay for repairing the damaged property and be forced to work on a work crew to remove graffiti in your area. (PC § 594)

DO I NEED A SPECIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE A MOTORBOAT?

No. But take the time to learn the speed limits and right-of-way rules. And if you plan to tow a water-skier, know where and how to do it. As the boat operator, you could be held responsible for any accidents. And while alcohol may be present on a boat, it is illegal for the driver to be under the influence. If a drunken boat operator is at the helm when a fatal accident occurs, he or she could be charged with gross vehicular manslaughter. (PC §§ 191.5-193.5) If you are under 21, you cannot operate any recreational vessel or water ski with 0.01 percent or more blood-alcohol concentration. (HNC § 655.6)

ROWDY FAN LAW

If you try to distract a player or interfere with a play at a professional sporting event by throwing an object onto or across the court or field, you will be breaking the law. Nor can you, as a spectator, enter the court or field during the event without official permission. If you violate this law, you could face a fine of up to \$250. Owners of professional sporting facilities must post notices describing the illegality of such conduct and the potential punishment. (PC § 243.83)

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among adolescents in the United States. Six out of every ten high school seniors have consumed alcohol at some point during their lives and 14 percent have engaged in binge drinking. Roughly one in two say they have tried some type of illegal drug. But drinking alcohol under the age of 21 or using certain drugs without a prescription is illegal, and it can wreak havoc on your health and life.

In recent years, the use of MDMA (ecstasy) and the non-medical use of certain painkillers, such as Vicodin and OxyContin, by teenagers has raised concerns. In addition, certain so-called "club drugs" have been associated with "date rape" in which a drug is



slipped into an unsuspecting victim's drink to pave the way for a sexual assault. And in a recent survey, a troubling number of teens — one in 16 high school seniors — admitted using marijuana every day. The survey also revealed a significant increase in vaping by adolescents, making it the second most common form of substance use among adolescents. This is concerning given recent reports of respiratory illnesses, in some cases resulting in death, associated with the use of vaping products.

WHEN I TURN 18, CAN I LEGALLY BUY ANY TYPE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE?

No. In California, it is against the law for anyone under 21 to buy (or attempt to buy) any alcoholic beverage. The law defines an alcoholic beverage as any drink that contains at least one-half of one percent alcohol. (B&PC §§ 23004, 25658(b), 25658.5) Nor is it legal to sell or give an alcoholic beverage to anyone under 21, or to allow anyone under 21 to drink alcohol in a bar, restaurant or store. If you look younger than 21, you will be asked to prove your age. And if you can't provide ID, the clerk can't sell alcohol to you. (B&PC §§ 25658(a), 25658.4, 25659)

COULD I GET IN TROUBLE FOR USING SOMEONE ELSE'S DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ALTERING MY OWN TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT I AM 21?

Yes. Either way, you would be breaking the law. Also, the person who provided you with the false identification would be committing a crime as well. You cannot lend, borrow or alter a driver's license or other identification in any way. (B&PC §§ 25660.5, 25661; VC § 14610)

ARE THERE LAWS THAT ADDRESS UNDERAGE DRINKING AT PARTIES?

Yes. A police officer (who lawfully enters the gathering) can seize alcoholic beverages from anyone under 21 at an unsupervised social gathering. Under California law, an unsupervised social gathering is a public party or event that is attended by 10 or more people under age 21 and is not supervised by a parent or guardian of any of the participants. (B&PC § 25662(b))

The punishment for violating liquor laws varies. The offender may be found guilty of an infraction or a misdemeanor. Young people under 21 who violate the law may also have their driver's licenses suspended (or even revoked) for up to a year for each offense related to the possession, consumption or purchase of alcohol. Or, if the minor (age 13 or older) does not yet have a license, he or she would be delayed in receiving one. This is true even if the offense does not involve an automobile. Also, for their first offense, young people may be asked to pay up to \$250 in fines or perform community service. A young person convicted of a second or subsequent offense will be fined up to \$500 or be required to perform more community service. (B&PC §§ 25658, 25662(a); VC § 13202.5)

State legislators and many communities around the state have taken steps in recent years to help curb underage drinking. Social hosts over 21 can already be sued if they provide alcohol to an under-age drinker, who then causes an injury or death. The California Supreme Court has ruled that social hosts under age 21 may also be held legally responsible if they charge admission to a party where alcohol is served and an under-age drinker causes an injury or death. A growing number of cities and counties have enacted Social Host Accountability ordinances as well. While such ordinances vary, they generally hold the hosts of underage drinking parties (or the residential property owners who allowed the party) accountable for any drinking and loud, unruly behavior that takes place. The consequences may be fines that increase with each violation, the obligation to pay the costs of responding to the party or breaking it up and community service.

IF I CALL 911 BECAUSE ONE OF MY FRIENDS NEEDS MEDICAL HELP AFTER A NIGHT OF DRINKING ALCOHOL, COULD I BE ARRESTED FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING?

No. If someone needs help, call 911. Under such circumstances, you could not be prosecuted for buying, possessing or consuming alcohol even if you are underage. You must, however, stay at the scene until medical help arrives and cooperate with law enforcement. And this immunity would not protect you from being prosecuted for driving under the influence or for your involvement in any other activity made dangerous by the consumption of alcohol. (B&PC § 25667)

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I AM ARRESTED FOR DRUG POSSESSION?

It would depend on the type and amount of drugs, as well as other factors. More than 135 controlled substances carry a felony charge (a serious criminal charge) for possession alone. Such drugs include heroin, cocaine, LSD, amphetamines and barbiturates, among others. Conviction for felony drug possession could land you in jail or state prison. (H&SC § 11350)

The punishment for possessing marijuana — the most commonly used controlled substance — is less severe. If you are under 21 years of age, possession of 28.5 grams of marijuana (or eight grams of concentrated cannabis) or less would be considered an infraction (a less serious criminal charge) and could land you a fine of up to \$100, drug education or counselling and community service. Possession of the same amount on school property during school hours, however, could mean 10 days of jail time and/or a \$500 fine. (H&SC §§ 11357)

In California, you may be able to undergo a drug treatment program instead of prosecution if you are a first-time drug offender and not a felon. And if you successfully complete the program, the drug charges could be dismissed. (PC §§ 1000-1000.5, 1211)

However, if you are arrested with more drugs than someone might reasonably possess for personal use, you could face more serious charges of possession with intent to sell. (This is a felony even if possession of the particular drug alone would not be a

ALCOHOL AND THE LAW

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Drink while driving, or to possess any open alcoholic beverage in the car (or off-highway vehicle) or drive while under the influence of alcohol. (VC §§ 23152, 23220-23226)
- Be drunk or under the influence of drugs in public or on a public highway and be in a condition that poses a threat to oneself or others. (PC § 647(f); VC §§ 23152, 23220)
- Possess or drink liquor (or sell or give it to anyone else) at any public school or on school grounds, with some exceptions. (B&PC § 25608)
- Allow anyone under 21 to hang around a location where liquor is sold (except for a restaurant). (B&PC §§ 25657(b), 25665)
- Have any open alcoholic beverage in any city- or county-owned park or certain other public places without a special license or unless you are recycling the container. (For this law to be in effect, the city or county must have its own local rule—also called an ordinance—prohibiting opened alcoholic beverages in specific areas. (B&PC § 25620)

IF YOU ARE UNDER 21, YOU CANNOT:

- Possess liquor on any roadway or in any public place; carry liquor in a car; or be a passenger in a car carrying liquor unless you're accompanied by a parent, responsible adult relative or any other adult designated by the parent or legal guardian — even if the container is sealed. (B&PC § 25662; VC § 23224)
- Enter and remain in a bar without lawful business. (B&PC § 25665)
- Be hired to work in any establishment whose main business is selling alcoholic beverages for use on the premises. If you are under 18, you cannot work anywhere in which alcoholic beverages are purchased for take-out (a liquor or convenience store, for example) unless you are under the continuous supervision of someone who is at least 21. (B&PC § 25663)

STERIODS AND YOUR HEALTH WARNING

Use of steroids to increase strength or growth can cause serious health problems. Steroids can keep teenagers from growing to their full height; they can also cause heart disease, stroke and damaged liver function. Men and women using steroids may develop fertility problems, personality changes and acne. Men can also experience premature balding and development of breast tissue. These health hazards are in addition to the civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized sale, use or exchange of anabolic steroids. —*By law, this notice must be posted in all locker rooms in athletic facilities, including health studios, colleges and schools with middle and high school-aged students. (CC § 1812.97)*

felony.) If convicted, you could face up to five years in prison and a \$50,000 fine, depending on the type of drug and the quantity. (H&SC § 11351-11352.5)

A drug conviction could endanger your future schooling as well. If you are convicted of possession or distribution of a controlled substance, you could be barred from receiving benefits — including student grants and loans — from any program using federal funding, except for certain long-term drug treatment. (21 USC § 862)

For more information on the nature of misdemeanors, felonies and other crimes, see the section entitled Crimes and Consequences on page 13.

IF I GET CAUGHT SELLING DRUGS AT A SCHOOL WOULD I FACE A STIFFER PENALTY?

Yes. State law imposes severe penalties on anyone 18 or older who illegally sells or gives a controlled substance to a minor. If you do so at a public park, playground or school or within 1,000 feet of one during school hours, you could face more than nine years in prison. (H&SC §§ 11353-11353.6)

IS IT AGAINST THE LAW TO POSSESS A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIBED FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

Yes. The unauthorized possession of certain types of prescription drugs, including narcotic painkillers, could land you in jail or even prison. Also, keep in mind that the non-medical use of someone else's prescription drugs can be just as dangerous — and illegal — as using illegal street drugs. (B&PC § 4060; H&SC §§ 11007, 11350)

COULD I GET IN TROUBLE JUST FOR HOLDING A FRIEND'S ROACH CLIP OR DRUG PIPE?

Yes. Possession of drug paraphernalia — any equipment designed to help grow, make or use a controlled substance — is illegal. Also, it is against the law for you to be present anywhere (a party, for example) where controlled substances are being used illegally if you are participating or assisting others in their use. (H&SC §§ 11014.5, 11364-65)

COULD I LOSE MY DRIVER'S LICENSE IF I'M CONVICTED OF DRUG POSSESSION?

Yes. In California, your license can be suspended for one year if you are between 13 and 21 years old and you are convicted of drug or alcohol related offenses. Also, successive offenses could result in further suspension or delay of driving privileges. The suspension, restriction or delay of your license would be in addition to the penalty imposed for the conviction. (VC §§ 12806, 12809, 13202.5)

IF I USE STEROIDS TO BUILD UP MY MUSCLES AND IMPROVE MY GAME, AM I BREAKING THE LAW?

Yes. All non-medical use of anabolic steroids is illegal. And if you are convicted of distribution, you could face imprisonment and a fine. (H&SC §§ 11056(f); 11377, 11378) Data suggests that steroid use among 12th grade boys has decreased in recent years in the wake of tightened laws, educational efforts and scandals involving professional athletes. In addition, California Interscholastic Federation rules now require all participating high school athletes to sign a pledge that they will not use anabolic steroids (without a prescription) or dietary supplements banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. State law-mandated rules require the students' parents (or guardians) to sign notifications about the restrictions as well. (Ed.C §§ 49030, 49033; 21 USC § 802) For more information on drug abuse, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse website at drugabuse.gov.

KEY CODE ABBREVIATIONS

B&PC BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

CC CIVIL CODE

CCP CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

Ed C EDUCATION CODE

ELC ELECTIONS CODE

FC FAMILY CODE

FGC FISH AND GAME CODE

Govt.C GOVERNMENT CODE

HNC HARBORS AND NAVIGATION CODE

H&SC HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

IC INSURANCE CODE

Lab.C LABOR CODE

MVC MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE

PC PENAL CODE

RTC REVENUE AND TAX CODE

USC UNITED STATES CODE

VC VEHICLE CODE

W&IC WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

Note: The symbols § and §§ refer to "section" and "sections" in the laws cited throughout the guide.

MONEY MATTERS



You can now sign legal contracts, open bank accounts and apply for loans on your own. Such independence, however, could also make it easier to get in over your head. Many young people do. If you are 18, your parents do not have to bail you out financially — it's their choice. You have many options these days in how you handle your money — from debit cards to online banking to money transfers via your smart phone. Before you make any financial decisions in these tough economic times, learn the benefits, pitfalls, rules and restrictions.

WHAT IS A CONTRACT?

A contract is an agreement between two or more competent parties. Contracts may be oral or written and must be legal. A contract could, for example, involve a large purchase, such as a new car, for which you agree to make installment payments. Or you might sign a contract to lease an apartment for a year or to buy an insurance policy with annual premiums or to accept the terms of a new job.

WHO CAN MAKE A CONTRACT?

You can — if you're at least 18 years old and of sound mind. When considering any contract, however, take some precautions:

- Read the contract completely before signing it.
- Do not sign anything until you fully understand the agreement.
- If you don't agree with something in the contract, talk to the other party about altering or removing it.
- Do not sign a contract with blank spaces — fill them in or cross them out.
- Be sure to keep a signed copy of the contract.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BREAK A CONTRACT BECAUSE I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT?

Not understanding a contract generally is not an excuse for breaking the agreement. It's up to you to understand the terms of the contract before you sign it. Breaching a contract — failing to pay a debt according to the contract's terms, for example — can lead to serious consequences:

- You could be sued and be required to appear before a judge. If you lose your case, you may have to pay the judgment plus interest and, in some cases, the other side's costs and attorney fees if the contract requires it.
- If you have an unpaid debt, you may be able to work out an agreement to pay your debt over time. If so, make sure it is in writing.
- You could file for bankruptcy, which may allow you to dismiss your obligation to pay certain debts and allow you to rearrange debts and work out payment plans. Bankruptcy may give you a fresh start. But it would also have a bad effect on your credit rating and make it harder for you to get a loan in the future.

WHAT SHOULD I ASK BEFORE OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT?

First, find out what types of accounts are available and what type of account would be right for you. You might choose an account geared for students, for example. Ask about the interest rate, fees and services available on the account. Ask about online banking and the bank's overdraft program. And ask if you would be required to maintain a minimum balance in the account.

Also, before you consider applying for any bank product online, make sure you're dealing with a legitimate financial institution. For guidance, call the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) at 877-275-3342 or go to Bank Find at fdic.gov (click on Consumers & Communities, then Bank Find).

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ATM CARD AND A DEBIT CARD?

An ATM (Automated Teller Machine) card can be used for basic banking — to deposit funds into your bank account or withdraw money. You simply insert your card into an ATM and enter a personal identification number (PIN). If the transaction will include any surcharges or fees, you must be informed and be given an opportunity to cancel the transaction cost-free.

A debit card is used to electronically transfer funds from the cardholder's account. You could use it, for example, to buy groceries at a supermarket. According to one recent survey, consumers now use debit cards more often than credit cards, cash or checks. Be careful, however, when carrying or using such a card. The user generally does not need a PIN to access your account. So, a thief could take your card shopping and empty your bank account. If you lose your debit card or someone else uses it without authorization, however, you might not be liable for more than \$50 if you notify the debit card company as soon as you realize the card is missing. (CC §§ 1748.30, 1748.31)

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SPEND MORE MONEY THAN I HAVE IN MY BANK ACCOUNT?

It depends. If you do not have enough money in your account to cover an ATM cash withdrawal or a debit card purchase, the transaction will probably be declined — unless you have agreed to the bank's overdraft coverage and fee. If the bank approves the transaction, however, and you have not agreed to the bank's overdraft services, the bank cannot charge you an overdraft fee. (15 USC § 1693o-2)

If you write a check with insufficient funds in your account, the bank may return it to the person who tried to cash it. That person could charge you up to three times the amount of the check in penalties. (Also, writing a check when you have insufficient funds to pay it may be a crime.) Or the bank might pay the check, require you to make a deposit, then charge you a fee. (CC § 1719; PC § 476a) Ask about your options. For example, you might choose to link your checking account to a savings account for less costly overdraft coverage. Also, some banks will send you emails or text alerts whenever your account balance gets low.

What is a prepaid reloadable card? Typically, funds are loaded onto this card in advance and can be easily reloaded. This may be a convenient option and may take away some of the overspending risks associated with a credit card. But if you decide to use a prepaid card instead of a traditional bank account for your basic banking needs, make sure you understand the terms and risks. FDIC officials have warned that many prepaid cards have fees and fewer protections than traditional bank accounts.

...MONEY MATTERS...

WHY NOT USE A CREDIT CARD INSTEAD OF A DEBIT CARD, PREPAID CARD, CHECKS OR CASH?

There's nothing wrong with using a credit card, as long as it is you controlling the card and not the other way around. A well-managed credit card can help you build a good credit rating. Federal legislation, however, recently made it more difficult for anyone under 21 to get a credit card. If you are under 21, you must now have an adult co-signer or provide proof that you have the income to pay off your credit card debt. Credit cards are not the same as cash—you must pay interest and other fees to use them. In addition, late payments can tack on penalty fees and damage your credit. And if you only make the minimum monthly payments, you could wind up paying much more than you borrowed in the first place. By law, credit card companies must tell you how the interest charges would add up if you only paid the minimum each month and what your total cost would be. (CC § 1748.13; 15 USC § 1637)

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I LOSE A CREDIT CARD?

Report the loss or theft immediately to the bank or company that issued the credit card. If you report the loss promptly, you will not be held responsible for more than \$50 of unauthorized charges on the card. (CC § 1747.10)

WHAT IS A CREDIT REPORT?

A credit report is a summary of your debts and a history of how promptly you have paid your bills. The information comes from the companies where you have credit accounts and from public court records. It is collected and stored by companies, often called credit bureaus, which make the information available to creditors whenever you apply for a loan or credit card or make a purchase through installment payments. (CC § 1785.10)

Under federal law, you have the right to one free credit report every 12 months from each of three major credit-reporting agencies. Check your reports for inaccurate data that could hurt your ability to get credit or a loan. Also, incorrect information can be a red flag that someone is using your identity to get credit without your knowledge. (For information on ordering credit reports, see Top 10 Tips for Identity Theft Prevention on page 21.)

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO FIX BAD CREDIT?

It depends on the seriousness of your past problems. The files could go back seven years (or 10 years for bankruptcies). You may obtain your file to review what has been collected from your credit history. In California, if you have been denied credit based on credit report information, you can get a free copy of the report from the credit bureau if you ask for it within 60 days. And if it contains mistakes, you have the right to ask for corrections. (CC §§ 1785.15-1785.16)

WHAT IS COLLATERAL?

Collateral is an item of value that is accepted by the lender as back-up payment in case you are unable to repay your loan. (CC § 1812.2) If you buy a car, for example, and agree to installment payments, the car itself may be the collateral. The lender could then repossess the car if you fail to make your payments.

CAN A LENDER HAVE DIFFERENT RULES FOR MAKING LOANS TO WOMEN, MEN OR MINORITIES?

No. It is unlawful for a creditor to discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, sex or marital status. Lenders can only make distinctions based on the applicant's credit rating. (CC § 1812.30; 15 USC 1691)

MARRIAGE & PARTNERSHIPS



At age 18, you no longer need parental consent, and are now free to allow your teenage love to blossom into a legally binding marriage or domestic partnership. Legally, in California at age 18, matters of the heart may become contracts in conjunction with law: Marriage or Domestic Partnerships. At age 18 or 55, marriage is a legal commitment and should be a decision based on a "want to" and not a "have to". Marriage is not a solution if you have to get out of your parent's house, if you have to runaway, or if you have to be free of parental control. Instead, marriage is a serious commitment with real legal consequences. Marriage is not intended to be temporary, and should only be entered into if you want to be in a serious legal commitment with your spouse or partner.

ARE DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS LEGAL IN CALIFORNIA?

Yes, same sex couples can be married via Domestic Partnership In California. Legally, domestic partnerships include all of the rights and responsibilities common to marriage, and are functionally equivalent to civil unions offered in several other states. Domestic Partnerships are treated substantially equivalent to a heterosexual marriage, and both create a legally binding union, at law.

WHAT IF I DECIDE TO GET MARRIED OR ENTER A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

First, you must satisfy the initial requirements for marriage in California (FC §§ 300, 359; H&SC § 103175):

- 18 years or older is the legal age without parental consent.
- Neither party may currently be married to each other or another individual(s).
- Both parties must present a valid ID (i.e., Driver's license, military ID, passport, or green card, etc.). (FC § 354)
- A competent adult witness: The public marriage license requires the signature of one witness, and if desired, may include an

additional witness. (FC § 422(b)).

(e) Requirement to sign an affidavit that you have received a health department brochure containing information about genetic defects, diseases, AIDS (including the availability of testing) and domestic violence. (FC §§ 355, 358)

Next step is to locate your local County Clerk's office for filing your application. There is no requirement to select the County Clerk's office in the county where you reside, nor is it required to select the County Clerk's office in the county where you are getting married, so long as it is located within the State of California. Once selected, apply for a marriage license at the County Clerk's office and pay the required application fee. California marriage license fee varies by county, and is required at the time of application under CA Marriage License laws requirements.

Lastly, you will need an authorized official (generally a clergy member, judge, legislator, member of Congress or someone else) who is legally authorized to perform marriages, to perform the marriage ceremony. (FC § § 420, 400).

CAN SAME-SEX COUPLES GET MARRIED IN CALIFORNIA?

Yes. In 2008 a state Supreme Court ruling legalized same-sex marriage in California, but a ballot initiative called Proposition 8 banned it within the same year. A federal Court subsequently declared the ban unconstitutional. On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court sent the issue back to federal court, which upheld its original ruling. On June 28, 2013 California counties were allowed to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. (FC § 308.5)

Independent of State Supreme Court rulings, California continues to maintain domestic partnership law, which is a State law that entitles registered domestic partners to virtually the same "rights, protections and benefits" and "responsibilities, obligations and duties under the law" as married couples. For example, registered domestic partners may adopt each other's children, acquire property rights, and obtain health care coverage as a spouse. An additional benefit can also file joint state income tax returns and legally change their married names. (FC §§ 297.5, 298.6; Lab.C §§ 230.2, 233; R&TC §§ 17021.7, 18521)

WHAT IS MARITAL PROPERTY?

California is a Community Property state, and marital property will be divided accordingly, California does allow for Separate Property to be provided to each spouse. The definition of Community Property is "all property, real or personal, wherever situated, acquired by a married person during the marriage while domiciled in this state. CA Fam Code § 760 (2016) Separate property is defined in California as an asset owned prior to the date of marriage, acquired after the date of separation, or acquired after the date of marriage and prior to the date of separation by way of inheritance or gift. Therefore, assets and wages earned or obtained during a marriage are Community Property and both spouses have equal ownership and control. Separate Property, on the other hand, will remain 'separate' to the spouse who had it, and he or she will not have to share equal ownership and control. Additionally, a gift "earmarked" for one spouse, or an inheritance to either spouse would qualify as Separate Property. (FC §§ 750-752, 760, 770-772)

WHAT IS A PRENUP AGREEMENT?

A A prenup is an abbreviation of "prenuptial agreement". A prenuptial agreement (aka "premarital agreement") is a legally binding contract between you and your prospective spouse, before getting married. This agreement is completed and signed before you and your spouse are married and explains each spouse's rights and obligations when married. Each prospective spouse has an opportunity to enter into a prenup to protect themselves and their things, in the event they separate and divorce. While you and your spouse are free to agree to almost anything, before or after your married, California law does not allow any terms in the agreement that violate public policy or to be criminal. For example, the Court would not accept an agreement that the wife rob a bank on their 3rd wedding anniversary and the husband to receive, no more than, \$15 for his payment as the get-away driver. Additionally, nothing in the agreement can put child support in jeopardy. It is also required that a spouse have independent legal counsel (attorney) if he or she wants to waive future spousal support. (FC §§ 1500, 1610-1613).

A postnup is an abbreviation of "postnuptial agreement". A postnuptial agreement is a legally binding contract between you and your prospective spouse, after getting married. This agreement is completed and signed after you and your spouse are married. A postnup works the exact same way as a prenup, with the only difference being when the agreement is entered. Postnup's are completed and signed only after your legally married, as opposed to, before marriage (prenup).

NOW THAT WE ARE MARRIED, DOES MY SPOUSE HAVE TO SUPPORT ME?

Yes, both spouses are obligated to provide for the support of the other spouse, both spouses are also required to provide financial support for any minor children of the marriage. Either spouse can be held liable for necessities, such as living expenses (housing, electric, water etc.) paid to the other, or paid to support any minor child(ren). (FC §§ 3900 et seq., 4300 et seq.)

I NO LONGER WANT TO BE MARRIED; HOW DO I GET DIVORCED?

In California, there are only two grounds to dissolve your marriage (aka divorce): (1) irreconcilable differences and (2) incurable insanity. (FC § 2310(b)) No other reason will be accepted to dissolve your marriage. For example, a cheating spouse (aka adultery) is not a legal ground for divorce in California. You or your spouse will need to file a divorce petition (known as a dissolution of marriage in California). You may want to consult an attorney for legal advice and representation in your divorce. As required by law, a judge will make court orders regarding child custody, child support, spousal support for either spouse, and property division.

In California, the general rule, is that all Community Property assets and debts are divided equally, with each spouse receiving an equal share of %50. If you and your spouse want to agree to a different percentage split, i.e., 70/30, you may do so by agreement. Additionally, if you and your spouse desire an amicable divorce and can agree on the terms, you can prepare a Marital Settlement Agreement ("MSA"). A Court will accept and a



...MARRIAGE & PARTNERSHIPS...

judge will sign a properly executed MSA, in lieu of, a judge making Court orders. You may want to consult an attorney to prepare and file your MSA.

CAN I GET DIVORCED FROM MY DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP?

Yes, any legal relationship in California can be dissolved, regardless of whether your union is same-sex or domestic partnership. In any event, such partners have the exact same rights and obligations that apply in a divorce (dissolution of marriage). Matters such as child support, child custody, alimony and distribution of property will be resolved in Court or by agreement (MSA). In limited circumstance, such as when a domestic partnership lasts fewer than five years, produces no children, no unpaid debts, signed agreement of both partners etc., the domestic partnership can be terminated without filing a dissolution in any Superior Court of California. Instead, the law provides that "a registered domestic partnership may be terminated without filing a proceeding for dissolution of domestic partnership, by the filing of a Notice of Termination of Domestic Partnership with the Secretary of State." (FC §§ 299-299.3)

For more information, see the State Bar pamphlet What Should I Know About Divorce and Custody? Information on-line can be found here calbar.ca.gov

WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO SUPPORT MY CHILDREN AFTER MY DIVORCE (DISSOLUTION) ?

There is a legal requirement to provide support for all minor children of a marriage, and in certain cases, to provide support to your spouse/partner. Child support is required in California, and (a) your child, (b) the child's other parent or (c) the Department of Child Support agency has a right to sue you for financial support. The Court can also make an order to have your paycheck garnished, which would automatically deduct the support payment from your paycheck. (CCP §§ 706.011(c), 706.030; FC §§ 297.5, 3900)

CAN I LOSE MY PARENTAL RIGHTS?

Yes, parental rights are not guaranteed, and can be terminated for the following reasons:

- a. (A) Abandonment (FC § 7822, PC § 270) For example, leaving your child with a grandparent for extended period of time (months or years) with no visitations, no phone calls, and/or limited to no contact with child.
- b. (B) A continuing need for protection or services for the child (PC § 270)
Repeated abuse (FC § 7823) For example, Child Protective Services must investigate many concerns regarding your child, and/or many referrals for CPS protection have been received regarding your child.
- c. (C) Your failure to assume parental responsibility, moral and financial (FC §§ 7820 et seq.)

DEALING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HOW DO I DEAL WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Absolutely no one has a right to hurt you! You have rights and protections provided to you under California law. (FC § 6200-6219)

In California, neither spouse is property of the other spouse, as marriage is a union that either party may leave at any time. No one, including your partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, or any family member has the right to physically hurt you, emotionally abuse you, or threaten you. A marriage/partnership may have arguments, yelling and screaming, but it becomes illegal when it escalates to Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence is defined as any of the following (FC § 6320):

- To intentionally or recklessly cause or attempt to cause bodily injury.
- Sexual assault.
- To place a person in reasonable apprehension of imminent serious bodily injury to that person or to another.
- To engage in any behavior that has been or could be enjoined.
- Abuse is not limited to the actual infliction of physical injury or assault.



Domestic Violence laws protect against many different circumstances, ranging from emotional to physical abuse. It can range from verbal threats, social media threats, annoying phone calls and stalking (such as following a person to and from work), to unwanted sexual touching and physical hitting (i.e., slap in face, spitting, punching, kicking, etc.) Domestic violence also includes destruction of the victim's personal property, and violence/abuse near minor child(ren).

I AM SCARED OF MY SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER

Do NOT hesitate, if you are in immediate danger: call 911. Find a safe place, even if it is not inside the home, and wait for the police to arrive. In emergency situations, the police can contact an on-call judicial officer and issue an Emergency Protective Order (also called an EPO). Additionally, Superior Court can provide you immediate protection and can issue Temporary Restraining orders on the same day you file a request. There is no filing fee to request a Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Order (DVTRO); both the EPO and DVTRO prohibits an abuser from coming within a certain distance of you, and lasts for a specific amount of calendar days, and may also grant you temporary custody and additional protections for your children (i.e., preventing DV abuser from going to child's school/daycare). At a later court hearing, you can ask that the DVTRO be made "permanent," which will allow you and/or your minor child to be protected for up to five years, and can be renewed. The law provides as much protections as possible, but do not harbor a false sense of security, a restraining order may lower the risk of violence, but it does not eliminate it. (FC §§ 6250, 6300 et seq.)

CAN I SEEK A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST MY ABUSER?

Yes. If you have been abused, call the police immediately. Do not hesitate to seek hospital treatment and keep a record of all your injuries, including the names of witnesses, police officers and medical attendants. You should also keep copies of all medical reports to present at your hearing.

Survivors of domestic violence can also keep their home addresses confidential through the California state program called Safe

at Home (p: 877-322-5227, e: safeathome@sos.ca.gov). For additional forms of assistance (i.e. shelters, relocation funds and free counseling, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800- 799-SAFE (7233), TTY, call 800-787-3224. For financial assistance in caring for yourself and/or minor child(ren) contact CalWORKs(TANF), CalFresh(SNAP) or WIC (babies and children), benefits are not only provided to mothers, but also to fathers, other guardians, or foster parents caring for minor child(ren).

CRIME AND CONSEQUENCES



Suppose you get caught shoplifting videogames at age 16. You might be lectured and driven home in a police car for a first offense. But if you did the same thing at age 18, you would probably be arrested and, depending on your record, you might be sent to jail for up to a year. If you had a history of theft, you could even be imprisoned for longer.

Once you turn 18, you face much more serious consequences for breaking the law. The juvenile justice system, which puts greater focus on rehabilitation, will no longer handle your case. Instead, you will now — if you commit a crime — face adult penalties.

WHAT IS A CRIME?

A crime is doing something illegal — such as destroying someone else's property or using illicit drugs — that is punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment. (PC § 15)

ARE THERE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CRIMES?

Yes. Crimes are divided into three general categories:

Felonies are the most serious and can result in a fine and/or commitment to county jail or state prison for more than a year. In addition, certain felony convictions can lead to life in prison without the possibility of parole — or even the death penalty. (PC § 17)

Misdemeanors are less serious crimes that are not classified as a felony or an infraction. They are punishable by a fine and/or up to one year of jail time. (PC § 17)

Infractions usually do not involve any time in jail, but do require a court appearance and/or payment of a fine. If charged with an infraction, you are not entitled to a jury trial or an attorney at state expense. Some traffic violations are infractions.

Some crimes are punishable as misdemeanors or felonies. Such crimes — known as wobblers — are considered felonies until judgment is imposed by a court.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I DO SOMETHING ILLEGAL WITHOUT REALIZING IT WAS A CRIME?

You are still guilty of the crime. Ignorance of the law is not an

excuse. Ask yourself if what you are doing will harm somebody or damage someone else's property. If it will, it's wrong and may be a crime. (PC §§ 26, 27)

WHAT DO I DO WHEN A POLICE OFFICER STOPS ME BY SURPRISE?

If a police officer stops you at any time, submit to their request to stop and remain alert. If they are not in uniform you may ask to see their badge. If they are in an unmarked car and you feel unsafe, slow down, put on your hazard lights, pull over in a well-lit populated area, and call 911 to describe what is happening.

Police may detain you in a public place, even without an arrest warrant, if they have a reasonable suspicion that you've been involved in a crime. Police can also conduct a pat-down search or 'frisk' to see if you're carrying a weapon if they can justify their belief that you are armed and dangerous.

You are free to ask police 'am I being detained', and if they do not respond that you are, you may ask 'am I free to leave'.

Be alert to the things you say, even jokingly. Police can use any information they gather during this process and recall it in any eventual prosecution of you, regardless if you did what they accused you of doing.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM ARRESTED?

You will be searched, handcuffed and taken to a police station. You also will be advised of your rights, commonly known as a "Miranda" warning, under the United States Constitution. (Miranda v. Ariz. 384 U.S. 436)

The Miranda warning reads: "*You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you. Do you understand the rights I have just read to you? With these rights in mind, do you wish to speak to me?*"

After you have been read the Miranda warning, you will be asked if you understand them. You for instance might respond:

- 'Yes, I understand my rights.' And you may decide to continue answering their questions.
- Alternatively, you may respond 'Yes, and I invoke my right to remain silent and would like to speak to an attorney.'

Then, remain silent and do not continue speaking, even if the officers seem friendly, or use emotional tactics to compel you to continue answering their questions. You do not have to explain yourself.

Be careful what you say to anyone at the police station — even if you are behind closed doors. You have no right to privacy in a

...CRIME AND CONSEQUENCES...

police station. When you make a phone call, police may listen in to your conversation but, not if it is with your attorney.

Once you have identified yourself, you can refuse to discuss your case with police. Law enforcement officers cannot threaten you or force you into answering questions. Nor can they offer you leniency in exchange for any written or oral statements. Also, you have the right to have an attorney present. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will appoint one for you. (PC §§ 686(2), 851.5)

You may, however, choose to answer questions, sign papers or submit to tests. Just be aware that such information, if given voluntarily, can be used as evidence against you in court.

ARE POLICE ALLOWED BY LAW TO LIE ABOUT EVIDENCE AGAINST ME?

Yes, police can use a number of strategies, including tricking or lying to you or others about evidence, DNA, witnesses, recordings they have collected - and anything they can use to compel you or others to speak. (People v. Farnam (2002) 28 Cal.4th 107; Hawkins v. Lynaugh (5th Cir. 1988) 844 F.2d 1132 and People v. Dominick (1986) 182 Cal. Ap. 3d 1174 |

Police may also be very friendly, seem like they want to help, and may even urge you that you don't really need an attorney to answer simple questions, or otherwise engage you to speak to them. They can also appear to coach you by implying needing an attorney suggests your guilt, or that refusing to cooperate will somehow hurt your case.

Police may also ignore your request for an attorney, at which time you should remain silent and repeat that 'I am invoking my rights to an attorney and cannot speak to you until I have done so.' (People v. Jablonski (2006) 37 Cal. 4th 774)

CAN THE POLICE EVER SEARCH ME, MY HOME OR MY CAR WITHOUT A WARRANT?

Yes, in certain situations. If you are arrested, police can search you for weapons, evidence or illegal or stolen goods. If you are arrested in your home, police can search the immediate area in which you are arrested as well. Other rooms — even other parts of the same room — would be off limits, unless the police believe that other suspects are hiding. During the search, police could seize any evidence of a crime, such as stolen property or drugs, which is in plain sight.

Your home also can be searched without a warrant in an emergency, such as if police are trying to prevent the destruction of evidence. And if police have good reason to believe that your car contains illegal or stolen goods or evidence, they can search your car, including the trunk, as well. Or, if police stop your car for any legal reason — such as a broken taillight — they can take any illegal goods in plain sight. (H&SC § 11479; PC §§ 833, 833.5)

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND BOOKED?

Typically, you would be taken to court for an "initial appearance" within 24 hours. If you were arrested on a weekend, however, you may have to wait until Monday morning (or later in the instance of holiday weekends) until court reopens. (PC § 859b)

WHAT DO I DO IF I CAN'T AFFORD AN ATTORNEY?

You are entitled to an attorney. At your initial appearance, tell the judge that you wish to speak to someone from the local public defender's office. Generally, the judge will postpone your case to give you time to contact a public defender. (PC §§ 858, 859, 866.5, 987)

CAN SOMEONE BAIL ME OUT?

In most cases you will be offered to post a bail bond that would allow you to remain free while the prosecutor pursues your case. It always depends on the circumstances of your case, and bail amounts are increased significantly the more crimes you are accused of committing. Bail is designed to guarantee your appearance in court. The court will often require that a certain amount of money be deposited with the clerk of courts. Usually, the court allows the deposit of a bond which you can secure from a private bail bonds agency, which typically cost 10% of the amount of the bail. The agency keeps that amount if you win or lose your case. For higher bond amounts you or someone you know would have to offer significant collateral, like the title to a home, to ensure you will return to court. Typically a member of your family or friends, must obtain the funds, deposit the money or secure the bond, then show the receipt at the jail in order to get you released.

In many situations, you could be released on your own recognizance, or released with your promise to appear in court or other appointments on time without posting any bail. Your attorney or Public Defender should request this from the judge on your behalf. People most likely to be released on personal recognizance have lived in the community for longer periods, are employed and may be subject to losing your job, and those who have family and children they need to care for. (PC §§ 815a, 823, 859a, 1268-1276.5)

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HELP A MINOR BREAK THE LAW?

If you help a minor commit a crime, you could face criminal charges as well. (PC §§ 30-31)

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I LIE OR FILE A FALSE POLICE REPORT?

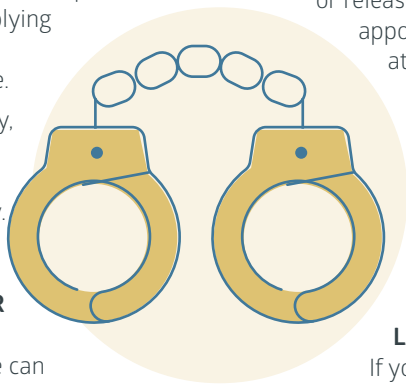
It is against the law to make a false police report, give false information to a police officer or turn in a false fire alarm. In addition, you should tell the truth if you are questioned as a witness. To lie under oath is itself a crime. (PC §§ 118, 148.4, 148.5)

WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK A POLICE OFFICER IS MISTREATING ME?

If you are being placed under arrest, cooperate with the officer — even if you think he or she is out of line. You can, if you choose, protest and seek lawful remedies against the officer later. For example, you could hire an attorney, seek help from a legal aid organization if you cannot afford to hire an attorney, or take your case to a special law enforcement agency, private agency or organization set up to handle such complaints. (PC § 834a)

If an unusually serious offense is involved or you wish to bypass such channels, you could contact the district attorney's special investigations division.

Or, if a federal law may have been violated, you might contact the U.S. Attorney General or FBI. Police may not handle every situation



WHAT ARE SOME CONSEQUENCES OF HAVING A CRIMINAL RECORD?

- A driver's license may be denied on the basis of a criminal record, and many jobs require a car. (VC §§ 13202, 13210, 13350 et seq.)
- A criminal record might prevent a person from being accepted by the college or university of his or her choice.
- A person who has been convicted of a felony may be prevented from entering the armed forces or, if accepted, may not be given a commission or a security clearance. (10 USC § 504)
- A person who has been convicted of a felony and is imprisoned or on parole does not have the right to vote. (El. C §§ 2101, 2150, 2212)
- Many businesses require employees to be bonded. An insurance company usually refuses to bond anyone who has been convicted of a felony.
- Some employment may be closed to those convicted of crimes or those who, while minors, committed offenses that would be considered crimes if committed by an adult.
- If you are not a citizen and you are convicted of violating any law or regulation of a state, the U.S. or a foreign country, you could be deported and prohibited from returning to this country. (8 USC §§ 1182, 1227) Also, law enforcement agencies are required to notify U.S. Immigration Services regarding the arrest of anyone who is not a citizen. (PC §§ 834b, 834c, 1016.5, 5026; Govt. C § 68109)

properly. But keep in mind that a police officer's behavior is often in response to provocation, a complaint from another citizen, mistakes made under pressure or doubt as to what the law is.

Good police community relations are a two-way street with both sides either contributing to the problem or to its solution.

COULD I BE TRIED AS AN ADULT EVEN BEFORE I TURN 18?

Maybe. It would depend on the nature of your crime. If you are at least 14, you can be tried as an adult for certain offenses (generally serious and violent crimes, such as murder, aggravated sexual assault, illegal use of a firearm and gang-related crimes). Prosecutors make such decisions on a case-by-case basis. (PC § 26; W&IC §§ 602, 607(b), 707)

WHAT IS THE "THREE STRIKES LAW"?

Under the "three strikes law" (the California Career Criminal Punishment Act), a third criminal conviction could mean, in certain situations, a prison sentence of 25 years to life. If you have been convicted of two violent or serious felony crimes (strike one and two) and you commit a third serious or violent felony, you could be subject to the "three strikes law." If you have a prior juvenile record, it could count if you were at least 16 when you committed any previous violent or serious crimes. (PC § 667) Prosecutors and judges have some discretion in their application of the three strikes law.

CAN I GET MY JUVENILE CRIMINAL RECORD SEALED?

Maybe. A California juvenile court record may be sealed when you turn 18 or five years after your last juvenile court case ended.

You must ask the juvenile court to seal the record. (W&IC § 781) However, if you were 14 or older when you committed a felony, a serious misdemeanor or certain vehicle violations, the juvenile court does not have to seal your record. (PC § 851.7; W&IC §§ 707(b), 781(c))

Sealing a California juvenile court record means that those charges, arrests and probation status reports contained in the record cannot be seen by anyone without the person's permission. Once a record is sealed, you can legally tell any future employer or school admissions officer, for example, that you were never arrested. (PC § 851.7(b); W&IC § 781(a))

IF MY RECORD IS SEALED, IS IT REALLY OUT OF REACH?

Yes, for the most part. But even when a record has been sealed by the court, a partial record remains with local police, the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, and the FBI. (W&IC §§ 781, 826) Once a record has been sealed, the police, probation department and court cannot legally release any information about it or even provide clarification of any information that may help the person who was convicted. In some instances, the consequences of simply having a criminal record can be more severe than the punishment for the crime.

ARE THERE STATE AND FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAWS?

Yes. In California, most criminal laws can be found in the California Penal Code, but criminal acts also are defined in other parts of the law. For example, some city and county ordinances — such as curfew laws, laws against smoking and laws requiring smoke detectors — are considered criminal laws as well.

In addition, the federal government has its own system of courts, law enforcement agencies and laws. Known as the United States District Courts, federal trial courts also have their own sentencing provisions and correctional agencies. Many federal criminal laws relate to acts involving U.S. governmental agencies, such as the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Treasury, and to crimes involving interstate commerce. Most federal crimes are felonies punishable by more than a year in prison.

GANG VIOLENCE AND THE LAW:

It is not against the law to belong to a street gang. However, if you are convicted of a gang-related crime, you could pay a stiffer price for what you did. Committing a violent felony with fellow street gang members, for example, could tack 10 additional years onto your prison sentence. This "gang" sentencing enhancement would apply even if you are only an "associate" or friend of the gang members. Such enhancements apply to anyone convicted of a gang-related crime. Some cities in California and other states also have been granted civil injunctions restricting the members of certain gangs from gathering together in business establishments or public places in specific neighborhoods. Such injunctions may prohibit the gang members from wearing clothing that bears gang insignia, for example, or from talking on cell phones in certain areas. Under public nuisance law, cities have imposed up to six months in jail or a \$1,000 fine against gang members who violate the injunction. (CC § 3480; PC §§ 186.25, 186.26)

GUNS AND OTHER WEAPONS



Due to a change in California law, when you turn 18, you are still not old enough to buy a firearm including a shotgun or rifle. You must be 21 to buy a firearm unless you are a member of law enforcement, in military, or have a hunting license. But be aware of the responsibilities, safety rules, and dangers associated with firearms. Nationwide, about 31,000 people die from firearms-related accidents, homicides and suicides each year. In 2011 (the latest statistics available at the time of publishing), handguns were used in about seven out of 10 firearm homicides and about nine in 10 nonfatal firearm violent crimes, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In the same year, about 26 percent of robberies and 31 percent of aggravated assaults involved a firearm, such as handguns, shotguns or rifles.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE LAWS REGULATING GUNS AND OTHER WEAPONS?

It is illegal to:

- Leave a loaded gun in a place where a child can retrieve it. The potential penalty is a fine and imprisonment. (PC §§ 25100, 25110)
- Conceal a weapon on your body or in your car without a special permit. (PC §§ 25400, 26150)
- Carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle, in a public place or in any other area where it is forbidden. (PC §§ 25300, 25850, FGC § 2006)
- Possess a firearm within 1,000 feet of any K-12 school. (PC § 626.9)

- Give, lend or possess blackjacks, billy clubs, sandbags or metal knuckles. These can be taken and destroyed by the police. (PC §§ 21810, 22210, 22290)
- Carry, sell, lend or give away a switchblade knife or similar type of knife if the blade is two or more inches long. (PC § 21510)
- Possess a stun gun, any kind of unguarded razor blade or any knife longer than 2-1/2 inches on school grounds. (PC §§ 626.10)
- In addition, California requires a 10-day waiting period and a criminal record check for most gun buyers. (PC § 26815)

COULD I GET IN TROUBLE FOR SIMPLY POINTING A GUN AT SOMEONE?

Yes. It is against the law to threaten anyone with a deadly weapon (except in self-defense) or to carry such a weapon without a license. This includes tear gas weapons, such as mace. In addition, using tear gas is illegal unless it is done in self-defense. (PC §§ 245, 417, 22810)

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE I CAN PRACTICE MY SHOOTING?

Yes. You cannot shoot any firearm from or onto a public road or highway in any city. It also is against the law to shoot a firearm at any house, vehicle, building or aircraft and, of course, at any other human being. (PC §§ 246, 374c)

DO I NEED A LICENSE TO HUNT?

Yes. In California, you must have a license to hunt birds and other animals. In addition, you will need a "certificate of completion" of a course in hunter education, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship to get such a license. (FGC §§ 1054.2, 3031, 3049-3054)

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON FEDERAL CRIMES?

- Transporting a stolen vehicle across state lines. (18 USC § 2313)
- Mailing matter that is obscene or incites crime. (18 USC § 1461)
- Transporting or importing narcotics. (21 USC § 952)
- Forgery of government checks. (18 USC § 513)
- Possession of stolen mail and items — such as credit cards — that have been stolen from the mail (18 USC § 1708)
- Robbery or burglary of a bank or savings and loan institution. (18 USC § 2113)

In addition, federal courts handle all state law violations committed on federal property, such as at a national park or federal office building.

TOO CLOSE TO THE ANIMALS

Don't step into that animal pen or climb that fence at the zoo. You may be breaking more than the zoo rules. It is against the law to enter any animal enclosure (cage, stall, pen, aquarium or tank) without authorization at a zoo, circus or other public exhibit featuring live animals. Unless you have permission or are on the zoo staff or are a public officer doing your job, you would be guilty of an infraction or a misdemeanor. (PC § 602.13)

HATE CRIMES

A hate crime

is a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or association with any person or group that has one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. (PC § 422.55) In California, the law also specifically prohibits anyone from damaging property or using force or threats of violence to interfere with someone else's rights because of any of these actual or perceived characteristics. (PC § 422.6)

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HATE CRIMES?

Hate crimes take many forms. Such a crime could be a physical assault, an attempted assault or simply the threat of an assault. It could be any crime motivated by the offender's bias (as defined in PC § 422.56). A threatening phone call, a swastika on your door, a burning cross on your lawn, paint splatters on your car or other damaged property, if excessive, could be evidence of a hate crime. (PC §§ 190.03, 422.6, 422.7, 594.3, 11410, 11411, 11413) A hate crime



is different from a hate incident, which is hate-motivated conduct (such as a bigoted insult, taunt or slur) that is protected by the individual's First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

HOW CAN I STOP SOMEONE FROM HARMING ME?

If you know the person's identity, you could ask the court for a restraining order. Your city attorney, county district attorney or the California Attorney General's office can request such an order for you. Or the district attorney or city attorney might decide to seek a civil injunction on behalf of the State of California, and request that each person who violated your rights pay you a \$25,000 penalty. (CC § 52.1) For more information on getting help, visit oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PERSON WHO HARMED ME?

If there is enough evidence of a hate crime, the county district attorney could prosecute your alleged attacker. And depending on the facts of the case, your assailant could face jail and a fine, or even prison. If the crime is a hate motivated felony, the judge may add years onto the offender's prison sentence. The judge could order "restitution" as well. This means that the convicted person would have to pay you back for "actual damages" or losses. Such costs might include your medical bills, for example, or the expense of removing racist slurs from a fence. (PC §§ 422.6, 422.7, 422.75, 422.85)

CIVIL LAWS AND LAWSUITS

In general, legal actions are divided into two categories: criminal and civil. Civil actions are lawsuits in which someone sues someone else for monetary damages (money) or something else to compensate for an injury or damaged property. Or a lawsuit could demand future protection of some type. When you turn 18, you can sue — or be sued — in civil court.

WHAT IS A TORT?

It is the legal term for certain kinds of injuries or damage that could lead to a lawsuit. If you commit a tort (injuring someone or damaging someone's property or reputation), you could be sued. It doesn't matter whether you injured the person on purpose or by accident. (Some torts are also crimes, so you could be tried in two courts for the same conduct.) And if you are found liable, you could be ordered to pay all resulting damages. (CC § 3333)



Examples of torts include:

- **Negligent driving:** causing injuries and/or damaging property. (CC §§ 1714, 3333.4, VC §§ 23103-23105)
- **Assault:** unlawfully attempting to touch or hurt another person. (PC § 240)
- **Battery:** intentionally touching another person without his or her consent. (PC § 242)
- **False imprisonment:** keeping someone in a room, car or other place so he or she can't leave. (PC § 236)
- **Defamation:** an unlawful written or spoken attack on the reputation or good name of a person. (CC §§ 43 et seq.)

IS THERE ANY TIME LIMIT FOR FILING A LAWSUIT?

Yes. There are statutes of limitations — laws that set time limits for filing various types of lawsuits. For example, the time limit is generally two years from the time of the injury for personal injury lawsuits. (CCP § 335.1) And for lawsuits involving damage to real or personal property, it is three years from the date the damage occurred. (CCP § 338)

If the injury or damage occurred when you were a child, however, the time clock usually does not start ticking until you turn 18. If you were injured in a traffic accident at age 11, for example, you could wait until two years after your 18th birthday to file suit. (CCP § 352)

COMPUTERS, MOBILE DEVICES, & THE INTERNET

You socialize on Facebook, “tweet” on Twitter, upload videos to YouTube and photos to Instagram. You research school papers online. You may even buy birthday gifts, do your banking and make weekend plans online. For many in your generation, today’s expanding Internet has become an important part of day-to-day life. But while it may open new doors, this world also puts you at risk in new ways. You cannot always be sure who’s on the other end of an online conversation. You could be targeted by cyberbullies. You could lose job opportunities by revealing too much on a website. Someone could misuse your private information if you’re not careful. And if you hack into someone else’s computer or download certain material, you could wind up in trouble.



IS DOWNLOADING INFORMATION, PICTURES, OR MUSIC FROM THE INTERNET EVER AGAINST THE LAW?

Yes, sometimes. It is illegal, for example, to pirate or download copyrighted material (such as music) without authorization. You could also get into trouble if you download sexual pictures of children or young teens. Possession of or control over “child pornography” is a crime — and could land you in prison. If you are convicted of possessing (or attempting to possess) such material, you would have to register as a sex offender for life. Delete any email with an attached photo of child pornography immediately. (PC §§ 290, 311.11)

COMPUTERS, THE INTERNET AND THEFT:

The law prohibits:

- Pirating or downloading copyrighted material (such as music) without authorization. (PC §§ 502(c), 653h) Under federal law, criminal copyright infringement, including infringement without monetary gain, is punishable by up to five years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000. (18 USC § 2319(b), 3571(b)(3))
- Accessing someone else’s computer without authorization. (PC § 502(c))
- Devising and executing schemes to obtain money, property or services with false or fraudulent intent through a computer. (PC § 502.7)
- Deleting, damaging or destroying systems, networks, programs, databases or components of computers without authorization. (PC § 502(c)(4))
- Disrupting or denying access to the authorized users of a computer. (PC § 502(c)(12))
- Introducing contaminants or viruses to a computer. (PC § 502(c)(8))

IS IT SAFE TO GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE?

It is never completely risk-free. So, if you do provide personal data online, take some precautions. For example, never give personal identifying information (such as your Social Security number) to solicitors or agencies that contact you first — even if the email or online advertisement looks official. It can be difficult to distinguish legitimate solicitors from those who want such information for fraudulent purposes.

If you shop online, look for indications that the website is secure before you enter a credit card or other personal data. (See *Top 10 Tips for Identity Theft Prevention* on page 21.)

IF I MEET SOMEONE ONLINE, WHAT’S THE HARM IN SHARING MORE ABOUT MYSELF?

It may seem safe — and even easier than in person — to share your innermost secrets with someone via the Internet. Your newfound friend may seem to understand you better than anyone else. The problem is that you do not really know who is on the other end of the online conversation. Protect yourself. Avoid revealing personal identifying information, such as your name, where you live or where you go to school, to anyone you meet online. He or she may not be anything like the person portrayed in your online friendship — and may have dangerous motives in mind.

More information on Internet safety can be found at missingkids.com and at fbi.gov. For tips on online privacy, see *Top 10 Tips for Identity Theft Protection*, page 21.

WHAT IS SEXTING?

The definitions for this new term vary. To some, *sexting* is when a young person sends or posts a sexually explicit image or message to a peer via a cell phone or the Internet. Others include sexually suggestive images and messages in the definition. One survey found that one in five teenagers had sent or posted nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves and that almost twice as many had sent or posted sexually suggestive messages. Most of the teens said the messages or photos were intended for a boyfriend or girlfriend. But sexting can have serious, unintended consequences. Such material can easily be transmitted for countless others to see — leading to embarrassment and humiliation. And depending on the message and/or photo, it could (and has in some states) potentially lead to criminal charges as well.

Both federal and state law make it illegal for anyone (even minors) to possess or distribute child pornography. State law also prohibits sending a minor “harmful matter” intended to arouse and seduce the young person. And if convicted of such a crime, you could be ordered to register as a sex offender as well. (PC §§ 288.2, 290, 311.1(a), 311.11(a); 18 USC §§ 2252A, 2256)

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying, too, has various definitions. In general, it refers to when a youth uses a cell phone, computer or other electronic communications device to taunt, harass, torment, humiliate or threaten another youth. Some researchers say the behavior must be repeated and cause harm to be characterized as cyberbullying. A *cyberbully* might post altered, humiliating photos of a classmate online, for example, or launch an online campaign of vicious rumors about a peer. Experts say cyberbullying can lead to anxiety and depression in young victims and, in some cases, may have even led to suicide. In a recent survey of young people (ages 10 to 18), close to one in six said they had been cyberbullied.

Legislators, school officials and courts around the country are

struggling to address the problem without trampling on young people's First Amendment right to free speech. California schools are required to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying. (Ed.C §§ 234) California law also gives school administrators grounds to suspend or recommend expulsion for students who are caught cyberbullying in certain circumstances.

In many cases, such behavior may not break the law. In certain serious cases, however, a young cyberbully could potentially face criminal charges. State law prohibits the use of phones or other electronic communications devices to intentionally annoy someone with repeated calls or electronic contacts, obscene language or threats. Or, depending on the circumstances, a cyberbully could face charges for seriously threatening someone's life, committing a hate crime, cyber-stalking or using electronic means to reveal personal information about someone that would threaten that person's safety. State legislation also makes it illegal to harm someone by credibly impersonating a real person on a website or by other electronic means. (Ed.C §§ 32261, 48900; PC §§ 422, 422.6, 646.9, 653m, 653.2) And young people, parents and schools have been sued in cyberbullying-related cases as well.

WHAT ARE LOCATION-SHARING SERVICES?

They are services that share the user's physical location with others via their smart phones or social networking sites. Location-sharing may be a great way to track down your friends or to let your parents know when you are stuck in traffic. But there are obvious risks as well. If you let too many people know where you are — and where you are not — you could also be more vulnerable to stalkers. Or to an angry ex-boyfriend. Or to the burglar who now knows the coast is clear. Take the time to check the service's privacy controls; you may be unintentionally sharing your location with people you don't even know.

I'VE SEEN SOME GREAT DEALS AND CHANCES TO WIN BIG ON THE INTERNET. SHOULD I BE SKEPTICAL?

Absolutely. Internet crime is increasingly common. In 2018, FBI received a total of 351,936 complaints with losses exceeding \$ 2.7 billion. Victims report fraudulent Internet auctions, credit card fraud, scams impersonating the FBI, identity theft, fake emails seeking disaster relief donations and purchased merchandise that was never delivered. For more information on common types of Internet fraud and how to protect yourself, go to [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov). Victims can file complaints with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (a partnership between the FBI, the National White Collar Crime Center and the Bureau of Justice Assistance) at [ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov).

ARE MY PERSONAL "TEXTS" AS PRIVATE AS A PERSONAL PHONE CALL?

Not necessarily. In California, it is generally illegal to record private phone conversations without the consent of everyone on the line. (PC §§ 631-632) Your texts, however, are written messages that can be easily forwarded to your ex-boyfriend or even your entire high school class without your knowledge. Ever written something embarrassing or hostile? Something that you wish you could take back? Once you push "send," however, it may be too late.

Text messages also leave a written record that could eventually wind up in the hands of your employer, the government or the police. In 2010, a U.S. Supreme Court decision concluded that a government employer did not violate a public employee's rights by reading his personal texts — some of them sexually explicit — sent from a work-issued pager. The employer — who read the

TIP

Out in public, use public Wi-Fi "hotspots" only for non-sensitive activities like research and Internet surfing. Don't do your banking where you buy your lattes, and be careful about typing your passwords.

For more information, go to oag.ca.gov



texts while auditing the agency's pager usage — disciplined the employee.

On the other hand, in 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that police may not inspect an arrestee's cellphone without a warrant.

CAN MY BOSS LEGALLY MONITOR MY EMAILS AND THE WEBSITES THAT I VISIT WHILE I'M AT WORK?


Probably. You should not expect privacy when you use your workplace computer to send emails and browse the Internet. However, check with your employer regarding the privacy policy for your particular workplace.

PRIVACY AND TEENS

Can your boss legally read your personal text messages? Can a doctor reveal your medical diagnosis to anyone who asks? Can the school principal search you for drugs? Privacy issues are at the heart of many legal battles. As a child, you rely on others — your parents or other adults — to protect your privacy. The law provides added safeguards as well. But when you turn 18, it will be up to you to protect your own privacy and, if necessary, assert your legal rights. This might seem like an impossible task at times in a world filled with cell phone cameras, online social networking, GPS tracking and new technology that collects and shares information. But how you behave can make a difference. When you share something personal, make sure you understand the potential consequences. You could be giving up your legal right to privacy by posting that picture or personal story.

This does not mean that your right to privacy is absolute. For example, the U.S. Constitution protects only the reasonable expectation of privacy from government intervention. This has been a point of controversy in court cases involving students who have been searched by school officials or randomly tested for drugs. In one case involving student athletes and random drug testing, the U.S. Supreme Court said that the reasonableness of a search is determined by comparing the impact on the individual's privacy rights with the legitimate governmental interest — and ruled that the invasion of the student's privacy was permissible. You may have a greater right to privacy in your home, but there are limits there as well. For example, your roommate generally could allow police to search the common areas of your shared apartment (such as the living room) but not your private bedroom. And in certain circumstances, police could legally search you, your home or your car without anyone's consent (see *Crimes and Consequences* page 13). Nor should you expect complete privacy in the workplace. Depending on the circumstances, your employer might be able to legally read those texts that you sent to your boyfriend from work or the email sent from your office computer (see *Computers, Mobile Devices and the Internet*).

PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY



Identity theft—using someone’s personal identifying data for unlawful purposes—is a serious crime. (PC § 530.5) More than 8 million American adults fell victim to such theft in 2010 at an enormous cost—\$37 billion, by one estimate. In addition, the average victim spent 33 hours trying to fix the problem and clear up his or her records. Such thieves may rummage through your trash, steal your wallet or “skim” encoded data off of your credit card. Or they may go “phishing” on the Internet (using misleading emails and fraudulent websites to trick you into revealing personal data). Or they could plant “spyware”, software that collects personal information as it is keyed into your computer.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT?

In today’s society, there is no way to protect yourself completely. Personal identifying information is used routinely to access one’s bank account, for example, or to apply for a loan. In some cases, you will be required to provide such information. Still, you can take certain steps to help avoid identity theft. For some tips, see page 21, *Top 10 Tips for Identity Theft Prevention*.

HOW DO I KNOW IF SOMEONE IS USING MY IDENTITY TO RUN UP BILLS?

Unfortunately, some identity thieves go undetected for long stretches of time. The victim only discovers the situation after an unsolicited credit card arrives in the mail or a debt collector calls

about an unpaid—and unfamiliar—debt. Be sure to check your credit report at least once a year. If you have not yet established a credit history as a teenager, don’t be alarmed if you initially receive “report not found.” This should be good news. If, however, you find inaccurate information on your report, contact all three major credit bureaus:

- **Experian:** 1-888-397-3742 / experian.com (credit reports, security freezes)
- **Equifax:** 1-800-685-1111 / equifax.com (credit reports, security freezes) 1-800-525-6285 (fraud assistance service center)
- **TransUnion:** 1-800-888-4213 / transunion.com (credit reports) 1-800-680-7289 (fraud reports, alerts) / 1-888-909-8872 (security freezes)

If you’re an identity theft victim, you are entitled to receive one free copy of your credit report from each of these credit bureaus each month for up to 12 consecutive months. You can also put a security alert or freeze on your credit accounts. (CC §§ 1785.11.1, 1785.11.2, 1785.15) And if someone is convicted of the theft, you could, by law, get some restitution to repair your damaged credit. (PC § 1202.4)

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I DO IF I THINK SOMEONE IS USING MY IDENTITY TO GET CREDIT?

Take action immediately. For guidance, visit the websites of the California Office of Privacy Protection (oag.ca.gov/privacy), the Identity Theft Resource Center (idtheftcenter.org), the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (privacyrights.org) and the Federal Trade Commission (ftc.gov). You should file a police report, register a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), fill out the FTC’s ID Theft Affidavit, and contact all affected creditors. Also, you will need to send certain information to the businesses, banks and credit card companies where your identity was used to obtain credit.

STAYING PRIVATE IN PUBLIC: HOW TO LIMIT YOUR EXPOSURE ON SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE

- Most social media automatically set your settings or profile so “everyone” can see who you are and what you do. You can decide how public you want to be. Regularly visit your profile to customize your privacy settings to suit your tastes.
- Keep your circle of friends recognizable. If you let an unknown person view or your page, his or her unknown friends can have access to your information too. Judge strangers as strangers, just as in the “real” world.
- You can say no when your profile suggests adding a friend or feature or app to your settings. If you change your mind, you can add them later.
- If you share things like your pet’s names, don’t use those names in your passwords. Bad guys scan social media pages for that kind of information to help them discover your online passwords.
- Take a minute and think about what you share online. Don’t discuss medical conditions or anything you wouldn’t want to see on a billboard.
- Don’t post your home address or phone number.
- Protect your email address — don’t post it. Use your account’s messaging tool instead.
- Be careful about revealing where you are, also known as your “real-time” location. Check your name to see how easy it can be for someone to track you.
- Never post that you’ll be away from home.
- Don’t provide your full birth date in your profile — omit the year.
- Don’t label or “tag” photos with names on your web pages. Ask friends and family who post photos of you and your family not to tag the photos they post.
- Use a strong password for access to your social media pages and NEVER share it. Do not save login information on your device.
- Protect your account from getting hacked. Use strong password-like strategies for answers to security questions. For example, answer “What was your first pet’s name?” with “D0n1Duck%.”
- Protect your information by protecting your computer with the best security software available.

For more information, go to oag.ca.gov

1. Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet. If your health plan (other than Medicare) or another card uses your Social Security number, ask the company for a different number.

2. Fight “phishing”—don't take the bait. Scam artists “phish” for victims by pretending to be banks, stores or government agencies. They do this over the phone, in emails and in the regular mail. Don't give out your personal information—unless you made the contact. Don't respond to a request to verify your account number or password. Legitimate companies will not request this kind of information in this way.

3. Keep your identity from getting trashed. Shred or tear up papers with personal information before you throw them away. Shred credit card offers and “convenience checks” that you don't use.

4. Control your personal financial information. California law requires your bank and other financial services companies to get your permission before sharing your personal financial information with outside companies. You also have the right to limit some sharing of your personal financial information with your companies' affiliates.

5. Shield your computer from viruses and spies. Protect your personal information on your home computer. Use strong passwords with at least eight characters, including a combination of letters, numbers and symbols, easy for you to remember, but difficult for others to guess. Use firewall, virus and spyware protection software that you update regularly. Steer clear of spyware. Download free software only from sites you know and trust. Don't install software without knowing what it is. Set Internet Explorer browser security to at least “medium.” Don't click on links in pop-up windows or in spam email.

6. Click with caution. When shopping online, check out a website before entering your credit card number or other personal information. Read the privacy policy and look for opportunities to opt out of information sharing. (If there is no privacy policy posted, beware! Shop elsewhere.) Only enter personal information on secure web pages with “https” in the address bar and a padlock symbol at the bottom of the browser window. These are signs that your information will be encrypted or scrambled, protecting it from hackers.

7. Check your bills and bank statements. Open your credit card bills and bank statements right away. Check carefully for any unauthorized charges or withdrawals and report them immediately. Call if bills don't arrive on time. It may mean that someone has changed contact information to hide fraudulent charges.

8. Stop pre-approved credit offers. Stop most pre-approved credit offers. They make a tempting target for identity thieves who steal your mail. Have your name removed from credit bureau marketing lists. Call toll-free **1-888-5OPTOUT (567-8688)** or opt out online at optoutprescreen.com.

9. Ask questions. Ask questions whenever you are asked for personal information that seems inappropriate for the transaction. Ask how the information will be used and if it will be shared. Ask how it will be protected. Explain that you're concerned about identity theft. If you're not satisfied with the answers, consider going somewhere else.

TIP

Online Resumés: Do not (never—no way) put your Social Security number on your resumé. You don't need to write it in the blank spot on the job application either. Legitimate employers will require your Social Security number late in the hiring process. Also, use a disposable email address and a post office box for your resumé.



— Source: **California Office of Privacy Protection**

10. Check your credit reports—for free. One of the best ways to protect yourself from identity theft is to monitor your credit history. You can get one free credit report every year from each of the three national credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Request all three reports at once, or be your own no-cost credit-monitoring service. Just spread out your requests, ordering from a different bureau every four months. (More comprehensive monitoring services from the credit bureaus cost from \$44 to more than \$100 per year.) Order your free annual credit reports by phone, toll-free, at **1-877-322-8228** or online at annualcreditreport.com. Or you can mail in an order form.

Source: **California Office of Privacy Protection / privacy.ca.gov**

WORKING AND TAXES



At age 18, you no longer need a special work permit to get a job. At the same time, however, child labor laws no longer protect you from exploitation. Still, as an employee, you do have certain rights as well as responsibilities. In most cases, for example, your employer must pay you California's minimum wage. And with some exceptions, your employer must give you regular breaks, overtime pay, workers' compensation insurance and unemployment insurance.

WILL I BE OFFERED A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH A JOB?

Probably not. Most employment contracts are oral. However, an employment contract must be in writing if you get paid on commission. (Lab. C §2751).

IS THERE ANY GUARANTEE THAT I CAN KEEP MY JOB IF I DO MY BEST?

Unfortunately, jobs don't come with warranties. Generally, an employer can fire an employee without providing a reason. There are exceptions: An employer may not fire or discriminate against someone based on race, sex, color, disability, marital status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry or religion. (Govt.C §§ 12940, 12948; Civil Rights Act of 1964 Title VII)

WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

It is another form of illegal discrimination prohibited by federal and state law. In general, it is unwelcome sexual behavior on the part of a supervisor, co-worker or client. Such conduct could be sexual comments, pressure for sexual favors, inappropriate touching or even a sexual assault. Or it might be one employee subjecting another to unwelcome sexual jokes or images. Sexual harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, it includes harassment because of a person's sex such as offensive remarks about a person's gender. (CC § 51.9; Govt.C § 12950)

WHAT CAN I DO IF I EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE?

You could contact the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) at 1-800-884-1684 (TTY-1-800-700-2320) or, via email, at contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov. For more information, visit the department's website at dfeh.ca.gov. Or you could contact your local Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

CAN MY EMPLOYER DEDUCT ANYTHING FROM MY PAYCHECK?

Yes, but only for certain purposes. For example, your employer could deduct funds for:

- Tax withholdings.
- Union dues.
- Any losses caused by your dishonesty, willful misconduct or gross negligence.
- Specific deductions that you previously gave written authorization to the employer to make.

WHAT IS F.I.C.A.?

Federal Insurance Contributions Act (F.I.C.A) taxes, also known as Social Security, are payroll taxes that provide retirement, disability and death benefits to workers. The employer pays half of the premium and you pay the other half.

DO I NEED A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO GET EMPLOYMENT?

Yes, unless you are ineligible for a Social Security number. Then you would need an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) instead. A U.S. resident who is not a citizen and a foreign national filing a U.S. tax return are examples of individuals who might need an ITIN. Your employer is required to report your wages to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)—the agency that collects federal taxes from taxpayers. The IRS, in turn, uses your *Social Security* number or ITIN to process your federal tax payment. For more information, check with your local Social Security office or go to ssa.gov. Or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY-1-800-325-0778).

WHAT IS WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE?

It is insurance—paid for by employers—that provides compensation and medical benefits to workers who are injured on the job. By law, employers must carry workers' compensation insurance. (Lab.C §§ 3700)

Such insurance is also intended for workers who develop occupational diseases caused by their jobs. It is not meant to replace a worker's personal insurance plan. (IC §§ 11630, 11650-11664)

WILL I GET BACK ANY OF THE TAX THAT I PAY?

Maybe. You (or your accountant) must complete an income tax return each year and mail it to the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board no later than **April 15**. If it turns out that you paid too much tax for your level of income, you would be entitled to a refund. (26 USC § 6402; RTC § 19302) For more information on employment issues, see the State Bar pamphlet *What Are My Rights as an Employee?* (available in English and Spanish).

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION WHO TOOK THE LABORING OAR TO UPDATE THIS PUBLIC SERVICE BROCHURE

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**San Mateo County DJJ Realignment Subcommittee
Summary of Written Comments – JIRBG Plan 2025**

Member	Page	Part	Comment	Response	Edit
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission	11	3	Re: LRPs—Can we add a Transitional Housing Program for young people stepping down from SYTF?	Yes	Proposed—Revise LRP section
	11	3	Re: LRPs—Can we add "transitional academic programs offered through the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems."	Yes	Proposed—Revise LRP section
	11	3	Re: LRPs—Can we name the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp?	Yes	Proposed—Revise LRP section
	11	3	Re: LRPs—Can we add individualized reentry services and support?	Yes	Proposed—Revise LRP section
	10	3	Last year we discussed adding Credible Messengers (which includes mentorship) into this year's plan. I want to make sure this is included.	Agreed.	Proposed—Add reference to beginning of Part 3.
	13	3	Parenting Classes: In the Fall of 2024 CORA began offering parent education classes through the juvenile hall.	Noted. CORA's workgroups for parents of incarcerated youth are referenced.	N/A
	13	3	The report does not reference Insight Prison Project's Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG). This program is mandatory for every SYTF youth in SF and is highly regarded throughout the state.	There are no plans to implement this program currently.	N/A
	13	3	Re PREP description—This is too vague. We need to describe what services the program actually offers. What tools are being provided?	Noted. We will revise the description.	Proposed—Add new language.
	14	3	College students also receive tutoring online and in person.	Noted.	Proposed—Add reference.
	17	3	How can I receive more information about the Independent Living Program.	You may follow up with Children & Family Services.	N/A
	18	3	Re: SOARR College graduate: Can we add that this student graduated "Cum Laude". We also had two students on the Dean's list.	Yes.	
	22	4	Re: Visiting Room Mural Project—Creating murals in the visiting room of a juvenile hall, no matter how well-intentioned, can unintentionally reinforce the school-to-prison pipeline by normalizing the carceral environment for youth.	We have not seen any evidence of murals in juvenile hall visiting rooms normalizing incarceration. Also, the idea of doing the project in the visiting room was suggested by the youth.	N/A
	23	4	Re: Family Engagement: In the Fall of 2024 CORA began offering parent education classes through the juvenile hall.	Noted.	Proposed—Add reference.
	23	4	Re Family Nights—These have not taken place in almost a year. We are hopeful they will resume in 2025	We had one as recently as January 2025.	N/A
	23	4	Do Success Center programs operate under different names? During the inspection process we asked youth about the types of things they were learning through Success Centers. None of the youth knew what Success Centers was.	No, but they did temporarily suspend their services during the first quarter of FY 24-25 partly due to staffing turnover. They have since restarted their job readiness program.	N/A

	23	4	Re: Success Centers Green Construction Program—Which population will be eligible to participate and when do we anticipate being able to offer this program to our youth?	Per SC, the program serves youth 18-24 with high school diplomas and GEDs and there is no fee to participate. We will follow up to make sure the opportunity is being promoted.	N/A
	25	4	Re: FLY incorporating cognitive behavioral therapy—I don't understand this. Is FLY bringing in clinicians in during legal workshops?	Per FLY, their Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-based legal education curriculum includes weekly two-hour sessions and key experiential components such as role plays, debates, and mock city council hearings to capture youth interest, educate them about the law, and build life skills. The curriculum covers relevant topics such as police encounters, accomplice liability, three strikes, theft, vandalism, drugs, gangs, and police arrests. The curriculum also teaches critical life skills like anger management, problem solving, conflict resolution, and resisting negative peer pressure. Lessons are delivered once a week in each unit of the locked facilitates.	N/A
	27	5	Where are the learning labs?	They are in Central Dining.	N/A
	27	5	The multisensory de-escalation room has not been utilized since it opened in November of 2023.	The usage of the room has evolved. It is currently being utilized as an incentives-based lounge area for youth.	N/A
	27	5	Re: Use of Gender Identity as a factor in determining room assignments—We do not have a girls' unit.	Noted. The number of in-custody females has remained low, making it impractical to maintain a fully staffed girls' unit. Housing assignments are based on multiple factors, including gender and sex, to ensure appropriate and safe placements.	N/A
	29	8	Re: number of times The Beat Within distributes its magazine at the facility—The magazine is published monthly.	Per Beat Within, they distribute a new edition every two weeks.	N/A
	29	8	Re: Success Centers performance data—When will the first data points be available?	Performance measure data is collected annually by ASR. Success Centers did not provide any data for FY 23-24, but reported 90% for their measures for FY 22-23.	N/A
	30	8	Can we include a statement regarding: the completion of the programs and services outlined in their IRP (Individual Rehabilitation Plans)? While some of these can be components of an IRP, it's important to note that IRPs are being tracked & progress is being measured.	Yes.	Proposed—Insert language.
	30	8	We have not had a youth transferred to a less restrictive placement yet. Should this be moved down on the list?	Yes, we can reorder the list.	Proposed—Reorder list.
	30	8	New Law Violations increased dramatically over this period. This may need to be moved up on the list.	Noted	Proposed—Reorder list.
	30	8	Re: Career Technical Education offered by the County Office of Education: This only applies to High School students. As of this writing, the COE does not serve high school graduates.	Noted	Proposed—Add clarifying language.

Fresh Lifelines for Youth	13	3	Is the garden program still happening?	It is currently on hiatus, due to staff turnover.	N/A
	13	3	Re: Phoenix Reentry Program—How do youth receive access?	PREP is a court-ordered placement. The program is available to youth serving long-term commitments who have demonstrated readiness and need for increased privileges and services before release.	N/A
	23	4	What does the last 6-9 months of incarceration look like? What areas will be focus on and by whom to set up all the reentry needs? Will there be additional MDTs, job placement opportunities etc?	Probation will collaborate with system partners to develop individualized reentry and step-down plans for SYTF youth, focusing on education, vocational training, behavioral health, housing and family reunification. Additional MDT meetings could be part of the process.	N/A
	23	4	An inside/outside approach is crucial to allow youth to reintegrate successfully and we should commit to prioritizing the types of opportunities.	Agreed. Probation supports strategies that integrate services and support during incarceration and after release to ensure a seamless transition.	Proposed—Add additional language.
	23	4	The reentry process and supports need to be outlined more clearly. What can we commit to offering youth so that they are successful?	Reentry plans will be tailored to each SYTF youth's individual needs, making it difficult to outline specifics in advance. However, Probation is committed to collaborating with system partners to ensure access to education, vocational training, behavioral health services, housing support, and other resources.	N/A
	27	4	What is the "LRP" referred to here?	The language was confusing, so we replaced it. The reference to "less restrictive program" did not refer to an "LRP" in the same context.	Proposed—New language added.
	27	4	Re: PREP—So secure track youth will not have access to this?	Technically, a secure track youth would have to be "stepped down" to be placed in PREP, at which point they wouldn't be considered secure track in the same sense as before. However, we will remove the reference of PREP being for "non-secure track youth" to avoid confusion.	Proposed—Clarify language
	31	9	Step down process outline and procedure is missing from this document.	The process for a youth/young adult to enter an LRP is determined by the court. Either Probation or the youth/young adult may file a motion requesting placement in an LRP. The court will review the request based on two factors: 1) whether the youth/young adult has made substantial progress toward their IRP goals, and 2) whether LRP placement aligns with rehabilitation and community safety goals.	N/A
Success Centers	19, 21	4	Weekly job-readiness training and life skills workshops, in-house and offsite work-based learning placements where appropriate, and Code on Point computer training classes.	Noted.	Proposed—Add revised language
Private Defender Program	11	3	Less Restrictive Programs: As I mentioned during the 2/20/25 JJCC meeting the county and probation is not being asked to build an LRP. It is important to note that an LRP is a placement and not a program. See WIC 875(f)(1). Meaning LRP can be home with supportive services, fire camp or other placement that facilitates the safe and successful reintegration of the youth into the community. I urge the incorporation of the applicable sections of the Less Restrictive Program Memo that CPOC authored in December 2024 into this plan. Specifically, the list of LRPs options listed on page 3 of the memo. Keeping with the concept of not building facilities, our position should be to move away from the concept of building a less restrictive	Noted.	Proposed—Update LRP section with additional details.

			placement unit within YSC. There are many options that would be utilized as an LRP that would be aligned with the spirit and the intent of the law. (WIC 875). Additionally, as youth transition into LRP, this plan needs to contemplate what the supportive service would be provided to them. The plan should address the population who is aiming on attending universities and finding a placement that would allow them to attend classes on campus and be placed in an LRP that provides them the needed support and prepare them for reentry.		
	13	3	It would be helpful to list when a program started. For the programs that are going to be coming online, it would be helpful to include the anticipated start date. The plan should include the frequency and duration of each program.	If we cannot get the exact start dates, we will provide anticipated start dates for any new programs moving forward. Additional info can be added regarding frequency of new programs.	N/A—Update new programs to include frequency of programs.
	14	3	Re: Tablets – Communication with friends and families is an integral part of the rehabilitation process. Additional information on this function would be helpful to put everyone on notice how this feature would be utilized and what are the times it is available for the youth.	We can add that each youth typically is allowed one hour of call time per day with preapproved contacts. The plan provides general information on when the tablets are available.	Proposed: Update language
	14	3	Student-centered standard based curriculum seems to be extremely vague. I would ask for further explanation on what this term means. The education experts on the JJCC or the education providers could add more details about the teaching staff credentials, student-teacher ratios, how much live teacher there is versus independent study, whether students have access to A-G courses, whether there is a quiet space for taking tests, whether there is a quiet space for special education assessments and reassessments. I anticipate that in the next year or two there will be youth in SYTF that are still in high school.	We will follow up with the Office of Education and update the plan when we hear back.	Pending
	15	3	Could the plan provide which modalities of individual therapy is being offered – like CBT, TF-CBT, DBT, etc.?	Yes, we will update this section with information from BHRS.	Proposed—Add language confirming modalities
	19	3	For us to provide a solid rehabilitation opportunity that would set the youth for success, the plan has to have more than "establish credible messenger opportunities." It should be a priority for us to develop a solid credible program that draws people from the community to build trust with youth by demonstrating that change is possible. The credible messengers' personal stories of overcoming struggles create a relatable and authentic connection, making them effective role models. Study after study have found that youth being mentored by a credible messengers improved their academic performance, created better relationships with peers and adults, reduced risk-taking behaviors, and increased their self-confidence. Therefore, we need to do more and establish a program that can either be administered through FLY or another one of the CBOs under agreement with probation. This SYTF Plan should specify what this program would be composed of. I ask our CBO partners on the subcommittee to create a plan for credible messengers.	Noted. We support working with our CBO partners to develop a structured credible messenger program fostering trust, mentorship, and long-term success for youth, and adding it to the plan in the future.	N/A
	23	4	The plan should include a schedule in which family nights will be occurring. This is a fundamental aspect of the youth's rehabilitation and reentry and should be occurring on a consistent basis.	Probation is currently reviewing Family Night procedures to ensure equity and fairness going forward.	N/A

	24	4	Re: Workforce Development Program – This is a critical program that would we are fortunate to have. the plan should include additional information from the director of the program on it implementations, identifying eligible youth, and what are the goals.	Noted. We will fill in additional information about how the program has been operating since it launched in July 2024.	Proposed: Update section with additional information from the director.
	27	5	The plan does not contain sufficient information on the less restrictive program. As mentioned above LRP is a placement and not a program and we should be approaching it as such. The plan should include additional information on how the secure track unit is going to evolve to accommodate long term programming and the housing and programming for girls in SYTF.	The reference to “less restrictive program” on pg. 27 was out of context and did not refer to “LRPs.” We will replace it with clearer language. Regarding females, we support working with our JJCC partners to create a plan for programming and housing girls in SYTF.	Proposed—Add new description of juvenile hall’s short-term and general population placements.



JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: April 30, 2025

County Name: San Mateo

Contact Name: John T. Keene, Chief Probation Officer

Telephone Number: 650-312-5520

E-mail Address: jkeene@smcgov.org

BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. Section 1995 was amended by Assembly Bill 505 (Ting, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023.) This template has been updated to reflect those amendments which will be in effect on January 1, 2024. All citations are to the law as amended. The statutory language can be found [here](#).

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(a).)

County plans are to be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995. OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are nine sections to the plan:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Part 1: Subcommittee Composition | Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System |
| Part 2: Target Population | Part 7: Regional Efforts |
| Part 3: Programs and Services | Part 8: Data |
| Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds | Part 9: Other Updates |
| Part 5: Facility Plan | |

PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS (WELF. & INST. CODE §§ 1995 (B) AND (C))

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information:

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	John T. Keene, Chief Probation Officer	Jkeene@smcgov.org	650-312-5522
District Attorney's Office Representative	Josh Stauffer, Assistant District Attorney	jstauffer@smcgov.org	650-363-4070
Private Defender Program Representative	Ron Rayes, Managing Attorney, Private Defender Program-Juvenile Office	ronr@smcba.org	650-312-5396
Department of Social Services Representative	John Fong, Director, Children & Family Services	jfong@smcgov.org	650-802-3390
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services	Ziomara Ochoa, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services	zochoa@smcgov.org	650-573-3926
Office of Education Representative	Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division	kshouse@smcoe.org	650-802-5589
Court Representative	Susan Etezadi, Juvenile Supervising Judge, County of San Mateo Superior Court	setezadi@sanmateocourt.org	-
Three Community Members (<i>defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system"</i> (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).))	Susan Manheimer	semanheimer@outlook.com	-
	Jane Smithson	jane.smithson@yahoo.com	-
	Nick Jasso	jasson@smccd.edu	650-759-2446
Additional Subcommittee Participants			
Board of Supervisors	Noelia Corzo, District 2, Supervisor	ncorzo@smcgov.org	650-363-4568
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services	Regina Moreno, Clinical Services Manager II	rmoreno@smcgov.org	650-312-5352

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission	Johanna Rasmussen, Chair	johannasmcjustice@gmail.com	650-537-3545
Community Based Organization	Melissa Poling, Associate Director, Fresh Lifelines for Youth	melissa@flyprogram.org	650-450-2361
Community Based Organization	Margaret Hitchcock, Director of Clinical Services, Urban Services YMCA	mhitchcock@ymcasf.org	650-877-8642 x61
Community Based Organization	Manuela Aviles, Program Manager, Success Centers	maviles@successcenters.org	415-459-7000
Community Based Organization	Jessica Sanchez-Martinez, Insights Program Director, StarVista	jessica.sanchez-martinez@star-vista.org	

Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):

The San Mateo County DJJ Realignment Subcommittee voted not to select a co-chair.

Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county's JJRBG plan:

Meeting Date 1: February 20, 2025 Meeting Date 2: April 3, 2025

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:

N/A

Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote.

TBD

Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):

The table below describes the process and timeline the County used to develop its 2024 plan.

Date	Activity
January 2025	Probation prepared an updated draft of San Mateo County's Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Plan with revised data, program information, and revisions for 2025.
February 20, 2025	Subcommittee Meeting #1 – The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's DJJ Realignment Subcommittee met to review and discuss the draft plan.

February/March 2025	Subcommittee members provided written feedback on the draft plan. Probation compiled the feedback and developed a final draft.
April 3, 2025	Subcommittee Meeting #2 – Subcommittee met to review and adopt the plan.
May 1, 2025 (or before)	Probation Dept. submits plan to OYCR.

DRAFT

PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(1))

Briefly describe the County’s realignment target population supported by the block grant.

The “target population” is defined as “youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code.” (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1990(b))

2020-2024 Target Population Data

To understand the target population for the grant program, the San Mateo County Probation Department compiled data from the past five calendar years (2020-2024) on persons who were 1) eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure, and/or 2) adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on a 707(b) and/or 290.008 offense. The key findings are summarized below.

- There were 89 adjudications for 707(b) and/or 290.008 crimes in the County between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2024 – an average of 17 per year.
- The cases fall into the following categories based on the most serious adjudicated offense: Assault (44), robbery (32), homicide (4), attempted homicide (3), and sex offenses (6).
- 92% of defendants identified as male; 8% as female.
- 64% of defendants identified as Hispanic or Latino; 18% Black; 6% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; 6% other race; 4% White; and 2% Asian.
- Average age upon adjudication: 16 years old.
- Placements (post-disposition): Youth Services Center-Juvenile Hall (37); community supervision (15); electronic monitoring (19); transferred to home county (8); still awaiting disposition as of April 1, 2025 (2); Secure Youth Treatment Facility (4); Margaret J. Kemp Camp for Girls (1); Residential treatment program (1); Division of Juvenile Justice (1); Deferred Entry of Judgement (1).
- As of Dec. 31, 2024, four individuals adjudicated in San Mateo County have been placed into the County’s Secure Youth Treatment Facility.
- As of Dec. 31, 2024, one individual adjudicated in another county has been placed into San Mateo County’s Secure Youth Treatment Facility after the case was transferred here pending disposition.

To help put the target population demographic data into context, the tables below show the projected estimated child population (ages 0-17) of San Mateo County by race/ethnicity and age and gender in 2025.

Child Population, by Race/Ethnicity		
White	46,489	32.27%
Hispanic/Latino	42,766	29.69%
Asian	33,791	23.46%
Multiracial	16,221	11.26%
Black	2,630	1.83%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1,895	1.32%
American Indian/Alaska Native	252	0.17%

Child Population, by Age and Gender			
Age Group	Female	Male	Total
Ages 0-2	10,523	10,920	21,443
Ages 3-5	11,110	11,565	22,675
Ages 6-10	20,330	21,610	41,940
Ages 11-13	12,147	12,504	24,651
Ages 14-17	16,369	16,966	33,335
Total	70,479	73,565	144,044

Source: California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-3: Population Projections, California, 2020-2070 (Baseline 2023 Population Projections; Vintage 2024 Release). Sacramento: California. September 2024.

The table below displays data on San Mateo County's target population for the past five calendar years, disaggregated by offense, gender, age, race/ethnicity, and post-disposition placement, based on cases adjudicated in San Mateo County.

707(b) Offense	Gender	Age upon Adjudication	Race	Post-Disposition Placement
2020				
PC212.5(c)-FEL- Second Degree Robbery	Female	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Camp Kemp
	Female	15	Black or African American	Transferred Out
	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	16	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Other race, ethnicity, or origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
PC 245(a)(2)-FEL- Assault with Firearm	Male	17	Black or African American	Transferred Out
PC245(a)(4)-FEL- Assault By Means Likely To Produce Great Bodily Injury	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	16	Black or African American	DJJ
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
2021				
PC212.5(c)-FEL- Second Degree Robbery	Male	16	Other race, ethnicity, or origin	Juvenile Hall
	Female	18	Black or African American	Supervision
	Male	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
PC 215(a)-FEL- Carjacking	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall

	Male	16	Black or African American	Juvenile Hall
PC 245(a)(2)-FEL- Assault with Firearm	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
PC245(a)(4)-FEL- Assault By Means Likely To Produce Great Bodily Injury	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	18	Black or African American	Juvenile Hall
PC 286(c)(2)(B)- FEL-Sodomy on Child under 14	Male	17	Black or African American	Juvenile Hall
PC 664/187(a)- FEL-Attempted Murder	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Black or African American	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	Juvenile Hall
2022				
PC187(a)-FEL- Murder	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Secure Youth Treatment Facility
PC212.5(c)-FEL- Second Degree Robbery	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	20	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
	Male	21	Other race, ethnicity, or origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Black or African American	Transfer Out
	Male	17	Black or African American	Transfer Out
PC245(a)(4)-FEL- Assault By Means Likely To Produce Great Bodily Injury	Male	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	EMP
	Male	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	15	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	EMP
	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
	Female	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
	Female	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision

2023				
PC187(a)-FEL-Murder	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Secure Youth Treatment Facility
PC192(a)-FEL-Voluntary Manslaughter	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Secure Youth Treatment Facility
PC211-FEL-2nd Degree Robbery	Male	19	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
PC212.5(c)-FEL-Second Degree Robbery	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Transferred Out
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
PC215(a)-FEL-Carjacking	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
PC245(a)(4)-FEL-Assault By Means Likely To Produce Great Bodily Injury	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	17	White	Supervision
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
PC246-FEL-Shooting At An Inhabited Dwelling	Male	15	Black or African American	Juvenile Hall
	Male	15	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Juvenile Hall
PC286(c)(2)(a)-FEL-Sodomy By Force	Male	22	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
PC288(a)-FEL-Lewd Act Upon A Child	Male	17	White	Supervision
	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
2024				
PC187(a)-FEL-Murder	Male	19	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Secure Youth Treatment Facility
PC212.5(c)-FEL-Second Degree Robbery	Male	13	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	16	Asian	Juvenile Hall
	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision

	Male	16	Black or African American	Electronic Monitoring
PC215(a)-FEL-Carjacking	Female	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
PC245(a)(1)-FEL-Assault With A Deadly Weapon	Female	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	15	Asian	Deferred Entry of Judgment
PC245(a)(2)-FEL-Assault With A Firearm	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	<i>Pending as of April 1, 2025</i>
PC245(a)(4)-FEL-Assault By Means Likely To Produce Great Bodily Injury	Male	15	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
	Male	14	Black or African American	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Supervision
	Male	18	White	Residential treatment program
	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	18	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	16	White	Supervision
	Male	16	Black or African American	Supervision
	Male	13	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	16	Other Race	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	Male	16	Black or African American	Transferred Out
	Male	15	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Transferred Out
	Male	14	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Electronic Monitoring
	PC245(c)-FEL-Assault Upon Peace Officer Or Firefighter	Male	17	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin
PC246-FEL-Shooting At Occupied Motor Vehicle	Male	15	Other Race	Electronic Monitoring
PC288(a)-FEL-Lewd Act Upon A Child	Male	16	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	Juvenile Hall
	Male	12	Black or African American	Transferred Out

PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(2))

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):

Below is a description of facilities, services and programs, and service providers supporting the target population in San Mateo County, whether placed on community supervision (with or without electronic monitoring), in non-secure-track detention, or secure-track detention.

Youth Services Center-Juvenile Hall

Juvenile justice-involved minors and nonminors subject to secure confinement in San Mateo County are housed at the Youth Services Center-Juvenile Hall (juvenile hall) – which also serves as the County’s Secure Youth Treatment Facility. The juvenile hall opened in 2006 with a capacity for 180 youth – although its average daily population was just 28 in fiscal year 2023-24. Its campus consists of an admissions unit, seven living units (two of which are in use regularly), a family visitation room, a multi-sensory de-escalation room, a kitchen, a multipurpose room that houses career technical education learning labs, a health and dental clinic, a fully accredited school, a gym, multiple gardens, a chicken coop, and an outdoor recreation area.

Therapeutic Detention Model

The County’s detention practice historically has included the use of a therapeutic detention model. This model combines the philosophy of secure detention with comprehensive resources that aid in the individual’s rehabilitation and successful reentry. These resources include health and dental services, mental health and substance abuse treatment, the County’s Court Schools Program, and evidence-based programs focusing on cognitive skills, job readiness training, domestic violence prevention, yoga and creative arts, mindfulness training, and more. Resources are provided in partnership with county agencies (e.g., Health, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, the San Mateo County Office of Education, and the San Mateo County Community College District) and various community-based organizations.

Secure Track (SOARR)

In 2021, the County established a secure track program called the Success and Opportunities Aspiring Readiness for Reentry (SOARR) program for system-involved minors and nonminors who previously would have been DJJ eligible. In 2022, the County released a request for proposals for programs and services to support both the juvenile hall and the SOARR program, with an emphasis on long-term, transition-aged youth. The process led to 12 contracts with seven community-based organizations in fiscal year 2023-24, including a music program, enhanced case management, enhanced re-entry and employment supports, writing and magazine-publishing, mindfulness meditation classes, job-readiness training, and a computer skills class, among other programs (***the table below displays more information on programming***). Some of these services specifically include supports for transition-aged youth, such as Fresh Lifeline for Youth’s law and career/education-related workshops and in-custody case management and coaching for the secure track population. In addition, Fresh Lifelines for Youth is leading a design process to build out additional services it may provide for SOARR minors and nonminors facing long-term commitments inside the juvenile hall. Although the County did not receive viable responses to every area of need identified in its request for proposals, we remain committed to filling these gaps as needed through other procurement processes. For example, this fiscal year (2024-25), the County opened new contracts with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse and Addiction Education Society, Inc. to provide healthy relationships workshops and drug and alcohol prevention classes, respectively, to the target population. Other services that could potentially be added in the future may include **credible messenger programs**, vocational training, parenting programs, and gang intervention services, among others.

Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)

San Mateo County is committed to working with the courts and secure-track youth and young adults to facilitate individualized placements in less restrictive programs (LRPs) to support successful rehabilitation, reentry, and community safety goals. LRPs may include:

- **Furlough-Based Programs** within juvenile hall for school, work, internships, volunteering, and home passes.
- **Community-Based Options** such as residential programs, fire camp training (e.g., Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp), transitional academic programs through California State University and University of California systems, and at-home support.
- **Individualized Reentry Services** to provide additional support based on each individual's needs.

LRP Models in Use or Development in Other Counties:

1. Community-Based Residential Program

- Operated by a nongovernmental organization (NGO) through a probation department contract.
- Services provided in an NGO-owned or rented home/apartment with probation oversight.

2. County-Operated Residential Program

- Located in a county-owned or rented home/apartment.
- Services provided directly by the probation department or in partnership with NGOs or community-based organizations (CBOs).
- Consideration: Local zoning regulations may affect program operations.

3. At-Home LRP Model

- Youth/young adults remain in their familial home.
- May include electronic monitoring if court-ordered under WIC 875(f)(2).
- Additional supportive services may be provided.

4. Pine Grove Fire Camp

- A CDCR-operated residential training program in Amador County.
- Serves eligible male youth/young adults (ages 18-25).

5. California Conservation Corps (CCC)

- A program under the California Natural Resources Agency.
- Offers residential and non-residential environmental service opportunities.
- Serves male and female youth/young adults (ages 18-25) statewide.

San Mateo County's Approach

The County will tailor each LRP placement to the individual's needs and goals, working in collaboration with the youth/young adult, the courts, and their multidisciplinary support team. When needed, the County will also endeavor to connect secure-track wards with transitional housing services as part of their step-down process to ensure stability and continuity of care.

Programs inside the Juvenile Hall

Minors and nonminors housed at the juvenile hall can participate in many programming options, ranging from job-readiness and life coaching sessions to yoga and fine arts classes. These programs are provided through a combination of probation staff, community-based organizations, and volunteers, and are largely available to all minors/nonminors in the facility.

The table below displays programs offered at the juvenile hall by community-based organizations in fiscal year 2024-25.

Community Based Organization	Program Description	Funding Source(s)
Fresh Lifelines for Youth	Weekly law-related education and career and education-focused workshops, plus in-custody case management and life coaching, and ongoing planning process to build out future Secure Youth Treatment Facility services.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant & Youthful Offender Block Grant
The Beat Within (A member of Intersection for the Arts)	Weekly creative and literary arts programming, enabling transition-aged youth to develop pro-social skills including positive self-esteem building, positive social interactions and positive relationship building with instructors.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant & Youthful Offender Block Grant
The Art of Yoga Project	Weekly yoga and creative arts classes.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
Mind Body Awareness Project	Weekly mindfulness meditation workshops and one-on-one coaching.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant & Youthful Offender Block Grant
Success Centers	Weekly job-readiness and life skills workshops and computer literacy training classes.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant & Youthful Offender Block Grant
YMCA	Emotional regulation and other group programs. Weekly, depending on availability of participants or instructors.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
Therapeutic Beat Making, LLC	A weekly program led by Elliot Gann, Psy.D., that uses hip hop and electronic music production (beat making) and DJ'ing as therapeutic and educational interventions to help participants to express themselves and gain new skills.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
University of California Cooperative Extension	The Healthy Living Ambassador's Cooking Program provides weekly education, skill building and career training around nutrition, healthy cooking, and food safety. Participants gain skills to cook for themselves and others through culturally relevant and personally meaningful recipes. Participants also gain career skills, including the opportunity to earn a food handler's license, which enables them to work in commercial kitchens.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
Airballin' (De Andre Drake)	Weekly art and/or airbrushing classes promoting creative therapeutic outlets.	Juvenile Facility Improvement Funding
Prison Education Project	Prison Education Project provides weekly academic, cognitive, life skills, and career development programming.	Outside (non-County) funding
Alcoholics Anonymous	Provides participants with a group of principles to help expel the obsession to drink and enable them to become happy and whole. Provided by National AA	Outside (non-County) funding

	organization. Services vary based on the availability of volunteers.	
Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse	Added in FY 24-25 – Provides ongoing, weekly healthy relationships workshops and mental health groups tailored for different age groups, including transitional aged youth, as well as monthly workgroups for the parents of incarcerated minors/nonminors.	Probation Department Funding
Addiction Education Society, Inc.	Added in FY 24-25 – Provides a drug and alcohol addiction-prevention class called “Neuroscience of Addiction.” This is a six-session class that will be offered to two cohorts in FY 24-25.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Live In Peace	Added in FY 24-25 – Additional, ongoing weekly life coaching, mentoring, and job readiness services provided by nonprofit Live in Peace at no cost to the County.	Outside (non-County) funding

In addition to the contracted services shown in the table above, the juvenile hall offers several programs led by probation staff, partner agencies, or volunteers. The table below displays programs facilitated by staff or volunteers as of fiscal year 2024-25.

Program Name	Description
Career Technical Education	The Career Technical Education Program offered through the San Mateo County Office of Education engages minors/nonminors with real-world technology and problem-based, hands-on learning.
WhyTry	A social and emotional learning program that is used in education and therapeutic environments including trauma informed care and in areas that practice restorative justice.
Book Club	Forum to discover new books, increase literacy and focus on literary critique.
Omega Program	Staff-led speaker series where outside speakers and credible messengers speak to minors/nonminors about changing behaviors and eradicating violence in the community.
Garden Program	Horticultural training in creating onsite gardens.
Essay Program	Critical thinking and creative writing.
Large Muscle Activity	All minors/nonminors are provided the opportunity to participate in large muscle activity (i.e., structured sports, physical activities) seven days a week for at least an hour each day.
Phoenix Re-Entry Program	The Phoenix Re-entry Program (PREP) is a juvenile hall furlough program for youth serving long-term commitments who have demonstrated readiness and need for increased privileges and services before release. PREP allows eligible youth to temporarily leave the facility to access community-based services and structured activities that support their rehabilitation and reentry, including education, DMV and banking services, vocational training, and counseling. These opportunities help build essential skills and connections to facilitate a successful transition back into the community.
Life Skills	Resume writing and interview skills, DMV preparation, hygiene, and other life skills taught by staff.

Bible Study (volunteer-led)	Voluntary Bible study group for youth inside the juvenile hall.
Religious Services (volunteer-led)	Voluntary religious services, if requested, for youth inside the juvenile hall.

Tablets in the Juvenile Hall

In fiscal year 2023-24, the County began issuing tablet computers to minors and nonminors inside the juvenile hall. The tablets allow learners to access educational and entertainment content as well as connect with friends and families through a voice calling app to improve the chances of a successful re-entry. Educational programs include financial literacy, basic work skills, high school equivalency programs, college preparation, substance abuse treatment, work skills and OSHA certifications, cognitive behavioral therapy, and more. The entertainment library features a rotating, curated selection of movies, radio stations, TED Talks, and audiobooks. As of now, residents have access to tablets during non-school hours, **and are allowed at least one hour of call time each day with pre-approved contacts**. Educational programs are accessible whenever the tablets are in use. Entertainment is available on weekday afternoons and evenings and most of the day on weekends. The County is partnering with Orijin, PBC in this project.

Secondary Education, College Preparation

The San Mateo County Office of Education provides a student-centered, standards-based curriculum for students inside the juvenile hall. This curriculum is augmented through a unique and innovative partnership with the San Mateo County Community College District through Project Change which provides students with opportunities to develop college and career readiness skills, complete California's high school requirements for graduation, and pursue college-level courses for college credit. Through Project Change, students have access to in-person classes at the juvenile hall as well as asynchronous classes online. Office of Education staff also provide counseling support for graduates seeking college degrees, including those seeking four-year degrees through programs such as Project Rebound at San Francisco State University. The Office of Education's college counselor also participates in monthly multi-disciplinary team meetings with secure track students. **College students also receive tutoring online and in person.**

The juvenile hall further supports the educational goals of minors and nonminors in the target population by providing dedicated computer terminals and access to technology on the secure track/long-term housing unit that enables students to conduct research and complete college courses while outside of school, based on guidelines provided by the Board of State and Community Corrections¹.

Programs Outside of the Juvenile Hall

The County contracts with four community-based organizations to provide programs for minors and nonminors outside of the juvenile hall who are awaiting adjudication or have been placed on community supervision (i.e., placed on probation in the community).

Organization	Program Description	Funding Source(s)
Fresh Lifelines for Youth	Law and Leadership Program designed to offer life-skills education focusing on asset building and cognitive-behavioral change followed by intensive case management.	Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act
Star-Vista	Insights Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program, and Victim Impact Awareness Program.	Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

¹ San Mateo is in the process of working with BSCC to accommodate increased opportunities for youth to have programming outside of the facility.

Success Centers	Job-readiness training, job placement, on the job training, worksite development, and career advisor services.	Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act
YMCA	Victim Impact Awareness Program, Sexual Violence Prevention Program.	Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

The juvenile hall offers trauma-informed, culturally competent behavioral health services to justice-involved minors and nonminors inside the juvenile hall as well as in the community. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), a division of the San Mateo County Health System, provides individual, group, and family therapy, court-ordered mental health evaluations, psychotropic medication management, and providing resources and support to families with children in the juvenile justice system. Clinicians coordinate crisis response and short-term interventions for individuals detained in the juvenile hall on a daily basis. This includes clients experiencing acute psychiatric and/or psychosocial crises. The Youth Services Center BHRS team also coordinates crisis response for after-hours, weekends, and holidays through an After-Hours On-Call Clinician rotation.

In FY 2023-24, BHRS clinicians provided behavioral health services to 117 of the 194 unduplicated minors and nonminors housed at the juvenile hall, including 12 who also received psychiatry services. Frequency of service is dependent on individual need.

Clinicians provide therapy services using a variety of evidence-based modalities, such as dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT). Other approaches include eye movement desensitization reprocessing, motivational interviewing, art therapy, attachment therapy, internal family systems, structural family therapy, and acceptance and commitment therapy. Clinicians collaborate with probation staff and community-based organizations and participate in multi-disciplinary meetings to help meet treatment needs of minors and nonminors in the juvenile justice system.

Last year, the Probation Department collaborated with BHRS to create and fund an Alcohol and Other Drugs Case Manager position which will be embedded within the BHRS clinical team. The position will provide substance abuse prevention, intervention, and rehab services to minors and nonminors at the juvenile hall.

Key responsibilities will include:

- 1) Specialized Services: Provide specialized alcohol and other drug services tailored to the unique needs of justice-involved minors and nonminors. Services will be culturally responsive, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed. This involves assessing and addressing substance abuse issues within the context of their broader challenges.
- 2) Therapeutic Interventions: Conduct Co-occurring group therapy, individual therapy, and family therapy sessions to address the multifaceted needs of the clients. These sessions aim to provide a supportive environment for addressing substance abuse, trauma, and behavioral issues.
- 3) Case management: Offer comprehensive case management services to ensure continuity of care and support for justice-involved youth and young adults. This includes coordinating with various agencies and professionals involved in the minor/nonminor’s life to ensure holistic support.
- 4) Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Collaboration: Actively participate in Multidisciplinary Team meetings and other collaborative efforts to ensure coordinated care and alignment of services with the needs of the minors and nonminors. This involves sharing insights, providing updates, and contributing to the development of comprehensive treatment plans. These treatment plans will also include comprehensive re-entry planning as clinically appropriate.

- 5) Relationship Building: Foster constructive working relationships with justice-involved youth and young adults and collaborate closely with multiple agencies involved in their care. This entails effective communication, advocacy, and coordination to facilitate clients' access to necessary services and support systems.
- 6) Referral and Networking: Facilitate referrals to external agencies and resources as needed, ensuring that minors and nonminors receive the continuum of care required for their rehabilitation and well-being. This involves staying updated on available resources and networking with relevant stakeholders to expand support options.

The table below summarizes the services provided by Behavioral Health and Recovery Services as of fiscal year 2024-25.

Behavioral Health Service	Description
Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics	Clinicians gather information through assessments to identify problems, key strengths, and the application of interventions in a way that helps families, educators, therapists, and others best meet the needs of in-custody minors and nonminors.
Intake and Screening	The BHRS clinical team provides initial screening and assessment of minors and nonminors arrested anywhere within San Mateo County on first-time offenses, or those who commit new crimes more than six months after the termination of their last probation. Additionally, the team assesses minors and nonminors with out-of-custody matters to determine eligibility for diversion programs and/or to develop treatment plans that include community referrals and probation supervision. The team screens and assesses for past and current juvenile justice, behavioral health, and social services issues or concerns. The team also identifies problem areas related to school attendance, behavior or academic performance, and substance use/abuse.
Individual Therapy/Counseling Services	Individual therapy is offered upon intake to all minors and nonminors detained at the juvenile hall. Additionally, referrals may come from the court, probation, correctional health, Office of Education, parents, community-based providers, or minors and nonminors who self-refer. In compliance with state regulations, minors and nonminors who have behavioral health services included in an Individualized Education Program or are prescribed psychotropic medications are routinely provided therapeutic services.
Case Management Services	Staff support minors and nonminors and families with linkages to resources to help with re-entry into the community, which may include linkage to SUD treatment services
Intensive Care Coordination	Targeted case management that facilitates assessment of, care planning for and coordination of services, including urgent services, for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with intensive needs.
Family Therapy	Clinicians provide family therapy to adolescents returning home from juvenile hall and out-of-home placements, in addition to minors and nonminors detained at the juvenile hall. Clinicians are equipped to provide culturally and linguistically responsive services to this diverse population which includes a significant number of families from Mexico and Central America. Clinicians collaborate with probation staff and community-based service providers to provide effective case management, crisis intervention, and family support within a family-focused, best-practices model.

24/7 Crisis Support	Clinicians coordinate crisis response and short-term interventions for minors and nonminors detained in the Juvenile Hall. This includes minors and nonminors experiencing acute psychiatric and/or psychosocial crises. The BHRS team also coordinates crisis response for after-hours, weekends, and holidays through an After-Hours On-Call Clinician rotation.
Group Therapy	Group therapy is provided with a focus on behavioral health concerns, such as depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, body image issues, emotional regulation, self-esteem, grief, intimate partner violence, and substance use. The structure of the group may be psychoeducational, skills development, a support group or an interpersonal processing group. Clinicians provide therapeutic interventions using a trauma-focused lens and therapeutic activities such as multimedia, gardening, drumming, running, art, and music to promote healing and positive change.
Family Partner Services	A Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Family Partner staff member assists parents of minors and nonminors involved with the juvenile justice system navigate court and legal processes. The Family Partner can help connect families to other agencies that provide housing, food, immigration, and other services, and provide insights to probation staff for more effective case management.
Psychotropic Medication Management	A psychiatrist provide psychotropic medication management for the minors and nonminors inside the juvenile hall. The referrals are either generated by correctional health staff, clinicians, parents, or self-referrals. The psychiatrist also work closely with clinicians to ensure continuity of care upon a client's release from the juvenile hall.
Court Ordered Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation	The staff psychologist and psychiatrist are responsible for completion of court-ordered psychological or medication evaluations. These evaluations help determine optimal treatment planning or placement options for minors and nonminors.
Consultation and Education	Questions, issues, concerns related to concerns about the behavioral health needs or status of minors and nonminors are provided to staff members representing Juvenile Institutions, Juvenile Probation, Correctional Health, and County Office of Education

County Social Services

The San Mateo County Children and Family Services agency works with probation staff to provide services to justice-involved minors and nonminors in the child welfare system. These services include:

Social Service	Description
The Independent Living Program	Provides training, services, and benefits to assist current and former foster youth ages 14 to 20 in achieving self-sufficiency prior to, and after leaving, the foster care system.
Foster Youth Education and Employment Services Program	Provides education- and employment-related case management services to current San Mateo County dependent youth. Participating youth will receive secondary and post-secondary education support, job-readiness training, career development and other supportive services.
Intensive Case Management	Intensive case management will be provided by the youth's social worker and a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children social worker who provides secondary support.
Transition-Aged Youth Summit	Serves as a leadership opportunity for youth advocacy and youth-led training for our community.
California Youth Connection	A youth advocacy group that drives policy at the state level and focuses on key foster youth priorities from a legislative perspective

Transitional Housing and Aftercare	Includes case management services and support for young adults ages 18 to 25 who have aged out of the child welfare system.
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Progress Update

Since May 1, 2024, the County has made progress in the following areas related to programs and services:

- Higher Education:** Of note, the SOARR Program saw its first college graduate in August 2024, a young man who earned his associate degree in psychology, **graduated cum laude**, and is in the process of applying to several four-year universities. Meanwhile, two other secure track nonminors are on track to earn associate degrees this academic year, **with both earning spots on the Dean’s List**. Their achievements highlight their hard work as well as a strong partnership between the Probation Department and the County Office of Education to provide college counseling, financial aid assistance, and other supports.
- Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse:** The Probation Department has partnered with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, a San Mateo County-based nonprofit, to implement healthy relationships workshops and mental health groups tailored for different age groups, including transition aged youth, as well as workgroups for the parents of incarcerated minors and nonminors. The program is available to a range of youth in the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.
- Addiction Education Society:** For fiscal year 2024-25, the Probation Department partnered with Addiction Education Society, a San Mateo County-based nonprofit, to provide an addiction prevention program to minors and nonminors at the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.
- Alcohol and Other Disorder Case Manager:** The Probation Department has collaborated with BHRS to create and fund an Alcohol and Other Disorder Case Manager position which will be embedded within the BHRS clinical team. The position will provide substance abuse prevention, intervention, and rehab services to minors and nonminors at the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.
- Fresh Lifelines for Youth:** During the third quarter of this fiscal year (2024-25), Fresh Lifelines for Youth expanded its case management, career exploration, and reentry services for the secure track unit. The enhanced partnership with the County allows Fresh Lifelines for Youth to allocate two full-time case managers to the secure track population to support day-to-day issues that arise, build social and emotional learning skills, provide career readiness and life skills, establish credible messenger opportunities, and support step-down opportunities.

PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(3))

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8))

As of this fiscal year, San Mateo County is using grant funds to fund contracts with five community-based organizations whose programs help to meet the mental health and behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population, with an emphasis on Secure Youth Treatment Facility residents.

The contracts are described in the table below and were awarded through a multi-year planning process that involved:

- 1) Stakeholder workshops in 2021 in conjunction with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to identify service gaps for anticipated Secure Youth Treatment Facility placements.
- 2) A request for proposals released in 2022 to fill those gaps.
- 3) Three-year contracts awarded to four nonprofits to in June 2023.
- 4) One-year contract awarded to one nonprofit in FY23-24. (**See below**)

Selected Grantees	Funded Programs	Funding Source
Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc.	Weekly law-related education and career and education-focused workshops, plus in-custody case management and coaching, and ongoing planning process to build out future Secure Youth Treatment Facility services.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
The Beat Within (A member of Intersection for the Arts)	Weekly creative and literary arts programming, enabling transition-aged youth to develop pro-social skills including positive self-esteem building, positive social interactions and positive relationship building with instructors.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Mind Body Awareness Project	Weekly mindfulness meditation workshops and one-on-one coaching.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Success Centers	Weekly job-readiness training and life skills workshops, in-house and offsite work-based learning placements where appropriate , and Code on Point computer training classes.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Addiction Education Society, Inc.	Added in FY23-24 – Six-week drug and alcohol addiction prevention class, “Neuroscience of Addiction.”	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

In addition to the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant-funded programs shown in the table above, the County is using Youthful Offender Block Grant and other funding to fund contracts with community-based organizations to help meet the mental health and behavioral or trauma-based needs of youth inside the juvenile hall, including but not limited to the target population, as shown in the table below.

Community Based Organization	Program Description	Funding Source
The Art of Yoga Project	Yoga and creative arts classes.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
YMCA	Sexual Violence Prevention and other group counseling programs.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
Therapeutic Beat Making, LLC	A program led by Elliot Gann, Psy.D., that uses hip hop and electronic music production (beat making) and DJ'ing as therapeutic and educational interventions to help youth to express themselves and gain new skills.	Youthful Offender Block Grant
Airballin' (De Andre Drake)	Art and airbrushing classes for youth at the juvenile hall, promoting creative therapeutic outlets.	Juvenile Facility Improvement Funding
Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse	Added in FY23-24 – Healthy relationships workshops and mental health groups tailored for different age groups, including transition-aged youth, as well as workgroups for the parents of incarcerated youth.	Probation Department Funding

Progress Update

Since May 1, 2024, the County has made progress in the following areas related to mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population:

- Alcohol and Other Disorder Case Manager:** The Probation Department has collaborated with County Mental Health to create and fund an Alcohol and Other Disorder Case Manager position which will be embedded within the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services clinical team at the juvenile hall. The position will provide substance abuse prevention, intervention, and rehab services to minors and non-minors at the juvenile hall, including those in the target population. *(See page 14)*
- Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse:** The Probation Department has partnered with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, a San Mateo County-based nonprofit, to implement healthy relationships workshops and mental health groups tailored for different age groups, including transition-aged youth, as well as workgroups for the parents of incarcerated youth. The program is available to a range of minors and non-minors in the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.
- Addiction Education Society:** For fiscal year 2024-25, the Probation Department partnered with Addiction Education Society, a San Mateo County-based nonprofit, to provide an addiction prevention program to minors and non-minors at the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.

Moving forward, the County will continue to explore opportunities to expand services to meet the mental health and behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population, with an emphasis on further developing its secure track program.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8))

In June 2023, San Mateo County used grant funds to award contracts to four community-based organizations whose programs promote healthy adolescent development. These programs are shown in the table below.

Selected Grantees	Funded Programs	Funding Source
Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc.	Weekly law-related education and career and education-focused workshops, plus in-custody case management and coaching, and ongoing planning process to build out future Secure Youth Treatment Facility services.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
The Beat Within (A member of Intersection for the Arts)	Weekly creative and literary arts programming, enabling transition-aged youth to develop pro-social skills including positive self-esteem building, positive social interactions and positive relationship building with instructors.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Mind Body Awareness Project	Weekly mindfulness meditation workshops and one-on-one coaching.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Success Centers	Weekly job-readiness training and life skills workshops, in-house and offsite work-based learning placements where appropriate , and Code on Point computer training classes.	Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

In addition to the programs in the table above, the County is using Youthful Offender Block Grant and Juvenile Hall Improvement funding from the state to help promote healthy adolescent development through the educational and vocational programs shown in the table below.

Service Provider	Funded Programs	Funding Source
University of California Cooperative Extension	The Healthy Living Ambassador's Cooking Program provides education, skill building and career training around nutrition, healthy cooking, and food safety. Participants gain skills to cook for themselves and others through culturally relevant and personally meaningful recipes. Participants also gain career skills, including the opportunity to earn a food handler's license, which enables them to work in commercial kitchens.	Youthful Offender Block Grant

Paxton/Patterson	Hands-on, technology-driven learning labs and career technical education curriculum focusing on teaching electrical skills, plumbing, painting, HVAC, carpentry, dentistry, emergency medical technician, and energy and power skills. Probation to partner with Office of Education to facilitate the labs.	Juvenile Facility Improvement Funding
Orijin/American Prison Data Systems, PBC	Computer tablets with preprogrammed software to allow learners to participate in self-paced educational programs ranging from career exploration to college prep to substance abuse treatment. The tablets also provide access to movies, radio stations and a video calling app that allows users to connect virtually with family and friends to increase the chances of a successful rehabilitation.	Juvenile Facility Improvement Funding

Progress Update

Since May 1, 2024, the County has made progress in the following areas related to the healthy adolescent development of the target population:

- Mural Project 2025:** This fiscal year, professional artists from the community were selected through a request for proposals process to lead a youth mural-making project in the juvenile hall visiting room promoting healing, change, and family reunification. The project fostered collaboration, creativity, and a sense of pride. The Probation Department used facility improvement funds to fund the project which was spearheaded by the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture.

Moving forward, the County will continue to explore opportunities to expand services that promote the healthy adolescent development of the target population, with an emphasis on further developing the County’s secure-track program. This may include adding services that grow with minors and non-minors over the years, support healthy relationships and social-emotional learning skills within and beyond the institution, and allow and support young people to practice decision-making, learning from failure, and managing autonomy.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8)

San Mateo County continues to explore ways to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population after unfortunately receiving no proposals for parenting or family therapy programs in our fiscal year 2022-23 request for proposals process. The County is interested in rebuilding programs that strengthen family connections such as the “Parent Project” and “Staying Connected with your Teen” as well as expanding programs for minors and non-minors in custody who are already parents themselves.

At the same time, the County continues to support existing partnerships and services that indirectly address family engagement. For example, through the County's partnership with Fresh Lifelines for Youth, young people develop social emotional learning skills to better interact with people in their lives, often family. When family members are supportive, Fresh Lifelines for Youth helps them understand how their children may need their guidance, advocacy, or support to navigate justice, educational, healthcare, and other systems. **Additionally, in August 2024, the County partnered with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse to provide workshops to the parents of incarcerated youth, as well as programs for youth inside the juvenile hall.**

Other programs and activities that address family engagement for the target population include the following:

- Family Nights inside the juvenile hall.
- Family therapy.
- Home Passes for minors and non-minors enrolled in the Phoenix Re-Entry Program.
- **Visits have been expanded to include extended family and supportive, positive adults, per the Youth Bill of Rights.**
- Video calling via tablet computers for minors and non-minors inside the juvenile hall.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8))

Comprehensive Reentry Planning for Secure Track Youth & Young Adults

The County is committed to developing individualized reentry and step-down plans for secure-track youth and young adults, focusing on education, vocational training, behavioral health, housing, family reunification, and other identified needs (see Part 3, *Less Restrictive Programs*). Probation will collaborate with system partners to support strategies that integrate services and support during incarceration and after release to ensure a seamless transition.

Fresh Lifelines for Youth

The County is currently using grant funds to partner with Fresh Lifelines for Youth to provide re-entry case management and career navigation workshops for the target population, with an emphasis on secure-track minors and non-minors. **This year, Fresh Lifelines for Youth expanded its services to include an average of three workshops per month in our facility, including career and education-focused workshops, and twice-weekly one-on-one case management in addition to meetings with school counselors and other partners. The provider will offer support in the implementation of step-down opportunities where youth will be able to practice skills outside the facility and begin the community reintegration process, which is vital to successful reentry. Fresh Lifelines for Youth also provides up to eight pro-social community activities annually for young people receiving re-entry case management services to further enforce pro-social attitudes, behaviors, and healthy activities with peers.**

Success Centers

In addition, the County is using grant funds to partner with Success Centers to provide job-readiness training, computer literacy classes and "employment spotlights" for young people inside the juvenile hall, also with an emphasis on secure-track detainees. The County will continue to explore partnership opportunities with Success Centers' community-based services, including the Green Construction Program, a 16-week program based in San Francisco that integrates construction training with life skills training, academics, career coaching, and job placement services.

Workforce Development Initiative

San Mateo County, with the Office of Education as lead agency, was awarded grant funding in 2024 through the Office of Youth and Community Restoration to participate in a workforce development program. This initiative connects justice-involved minors and nonminors (ages 16 to 25) with education and vocational services, enhancing reentry planning and employment opportunities within the juvenile hall.

Implementation and Goals

Launched in July 2024, the program is led by a Workforce Development Navigator in the Office of Education who collaborates the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), NovaWorks, and Fresh Lifelines for Youth. Key services include educational counseling for high school students and vocational rehabilitation, such as providing work-related clothing and tools. Goals include increasing access to educational workforce resources, expanding career pathways, and addressing barriers to employment.

Eligibility and Referral Process

DOR services require documentation of a disability, typically through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. Currently, 30-40% of juvenile hall high school students meet this requirement. Youth on medication for emotional or behavioral health issues may qualify through Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS).

- The Navigator refers eligible high school students from the juvenile hall and Gateway Community School and accepts referrals from Deputy Probation Officers for out-of-custody youth. Secure track youth and young adults could be referred upon release if they meet DOR eligibility requirements.
- Non-qualifying youth may access services through NovaWorks.
- Once referred, participants meet with a DOR counselor, though maintaining post-release contact remains challenging, according to the Navigator.

Program Duration and Tracking

Basic counseling may last several years. Vocational rehabilitation follows a structured plan and may last up to two years. Efforts are underway to establish a tracking system to monitor service completion and outcomes.

Referral Data and Service Engagement

As of March 2025, 22 youth have been referred to DOR services, including nine who have been adjudicated for 707(b) offenses. Another 12 are actively engaged with NovaWorks and four with Fresh Lifelines for Youth. The Navigator provides ongoing referral data and updates as the program grows.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8))

For several years, the San Mateo County Probation Department has prioritized using evidence-based practices among its contracted service providers. The Department works with its contracted programs evaluator, Applied Survey Research, to verify programs as “evidence-based” or as “promising practices.” The table below details the practices reported by Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant-funded service providers.

Grantee	Practice	Rating
Fresh Lifelines for Youth	Law Related Education & Credible Messenger Mentoring	Although not a nationally recognized evidence-based or promising practice on its own, the program incorporates the evidence-based practice of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
	Social-Emotional Learning	The practice of Social-Emotional Learning was rated effective in reducing students' conduct problems and emotional stress.
	Trauma-Informed Care	The trauma-informed approach is evidence-based practice according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
	Motivational Interviewing	This is an evidence-based practice according to the Center for Evidence-Based Practices. Elsewhere it is rated as research-based for children in mental health treatment.
	Critical Time Intervention	The intervention is rated as evidence-based practice according to the Evidence-Based Practice Center.
	Harm Reduction	Although not rated as evidence-based, it is recognized as an effective intervention for alcohol and substance abuse according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
Mind Body Awareness Project	Trauma-Informed Practice	The trauma-informed approach is an evidence-based practice according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
	Mindfulness-Based Interventions	Evidence-based model according to empirical evidence
	Empathy-Building Exercises	Emerging practice not yet rated for evidence based.
	Emotional Intelligence	Although not recognized as evidence-based or a promising practice on its own, many promising programs for adolescents feature increasing emotional intelligence, according to the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare.
	Communication Skills	Although not recognized as evidence-based or promising practice on its own, many promising programs for anger reduction feature increasing communication skill according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
Success Centers	Growth Mindset	This is a research-based practice based upon empirical evidence.
	Job-Readiness Training	This training is not yet rated but is informed by employment and training-related programs that are research-based or promising.
	Life-Skills Training	This training is not yet rated but is informed by skill-building training and curricula that are research-based or promising.
	Microsoft Digital Literacy Class	This training is not yet rated.
	Motivational Interviewing	This is an evidence-based practice according to the Center for Evidence-Based Practices.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8))

As of fiscal year 2024-25, San Mateo County is using grant funds to support contracts with five community-based organizations, as summarized below.

Selected Grantees	Funded Programs
Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc.	Weekly law-related education and career and education-focused workshops, plus in-custody case management and coaching, and ongoing planning process to build out future Secure Youth Treatment Facility services.
The Beat Within (A member of Intersection for the Arts)	Weekly creative and literary arts programming, enabling transition-aged youth to develop pro-social skills including positive self-esteem building, positive social interactions and positive relationship building with instructors.
Mind Body Awareness Project	Weekly mindfulness meditation workshops and one-on-one coaching.
Success Centers	Weekly job-readiness training and life skills workshops, career advising services, and Code on Point computer training classes.
Addiction Education Society, Inc.	Added in FY23-24 – Provides six-week drug and alcohol addiction prevention class, “Neuroscience of Addiction.”

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PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(4))

Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

Confinement of Minors/Nonminors in the Target Population

San Mateo County operates one secure juvenile detention facility, the Youth Services Center-Juvenile Hall, which houses the County's secure track program. The facility also contains **short-term and general population placements** based on the therapeutic detention model described in Part 4, as well as the Phoenix Reentry Program through which long-term detainees may qualify to receive services in the community or earn home passes to spend time with family prior to their release.

Physical improvements to the juvenile hall to accommodate long-term commitments include the addition of new furniture, career-technical education learning labs, computer tablets, an enhanced barber shop space, an incentives unit, a multisensory de-escalation room, computer stations for college-aged students, new kitchen equipment to allow for a culinary arts program, and additional security cameras to help ensure the safety of youth and staff.

Safety, Protection of Youth

As of fiscal year 2024-25, the juvenile hall operates three housing units to help ensure the safety and protection of minors and nonminors requiring different housing and program settings. In general, housing assignments are based on the following criteria, among others:

- Age
- Maturity
- Sophistication
- Charges and offense history
- Emotional stability
- Program needs
- Case status (e.g., pre- or post-disposition)
- Public safety considerations
- Medical/mental health considerations
- Physical disabilities
- Gender identity

Housing assignments are reviewed regularly and modified as needed to ensure residents receive the most appropriate and least restrictive housing assignments possible.

PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(5))

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

San Mateo County remains committed to housing youthful offenders closer to their families and communities to improve re-entry outcomes. By continually evaluating and improving evidence-based programs and services within our secure track program to improve offender outcomes and meet public safety goals, the County aims to provide a powerful incentive to the juvenile court to retain as much of the target population as possible within the juvenile justice system in lieu of being transferred to the adult criminal justice system.

PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

There are no regional agreements or arrangements supported by the San Mateo County's block grant allocation at this time.

PART 8: DATA (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(7))

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:

The San Mateo County Probation Department will collect data on youth served by the block grant through its case management system, services providers, and staff resources at the juvenile hall. A management analyst is assigned to oversee this data collection in coordination with the department's contracted programs evaluator, Applied Survey Research, to ensure accuracy, thoroughness, and meaningful reporting. The management analyst will track the size and demographics of the target population, including offense data, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and placements. In addition, the management analyst will work with Applied Survey Research and service providers to collect data on outcome measures for programs supported by block grant funds. The County intends to collect outcome measure data quarterly and report it annually to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response:

As part of its request for proposals process in fiscal year 2022-23, the San Mateo County Probation Department worked with selected community-based organizations to create outcome measures for programs supported by block grant funds. The table below describes those measures.

Grantee	Performance Measures
<p>Fresh Lifelines for Youth</p> <p>Weekly law-related education and career and education-focused workshops, plus in-custody case management and coaching, and ongoing planning process to build out future Secure Youth Treatment Facility services.</p>	Participants who report they have more confidence to deal with negative peer pressure. (Target: 80%)
	Participants who report that they are less likely to commit crimes and more likely to make healthy choices. (Target: 75%)
	Participants who report that they have hope for the future and want to make positive changes. (Target: 80%)
	Participants will enroll and complete case management and achieve at least one goal from their service plans. (Target: 100%)
<p>The Beat Within (A member of Intersection for the Arts)</p> <p>Weekly creative and literary arts programming, enabling transition-aged youth to develop pro-social skills including positive self-esteem building, positive social interactions and positive relationship building with instructors.</p>	Percentage of participants who report increased self-esteem through with Beat Within weekly workshops. (Target: 87%)
	Percentage of participants who report developing positive relationships with adult role models through Beat Within weekly workshops. (Target: 87%)
	Number of times the Beat Within Magazine is distributed at the facility each year. (Target: 25)
<p>Mind Body Awareness Project</p> <p>Weekly mindfulness meditation workshops and one-on-one coaching.</p>	Percent of participants who reported improved emotional regulation, self-control, and stress reduction. (Target: 80%)
	Percent of staff who report improved general behavior in the hall. (Target: 80%)
	Percent of participants who report greater self-esteem, self-compassion, and empathy. (Target: 80%)
<p>Success Centers</p> <p>Weekly job-readiness training and life skills workshops, career advising services, and Code on Point computer training classes.</p>	JRT/Life Skills participants will report enhanced knowledge about job readiness and life skills. (Target: 80%)
	Career Advising participants will report increased knowledge about achieving career goals. (Target: 80%)
	Code on Point participants will report increased knowledge about computer literacy and coding. (Target: 80%)

In addition, the County is tracking the following outcomes for Secure Youth Treatment Facility detainees:

- Completion of programs and services outlined in Individual Rehabilitation Plans
- Recidivism/new law violations
- Progress Review Hearing results
- Education outcomes (secondary and post-secondary)
- Vocational program completion
- Incidents in the juvenile hall
- Discharges to community supervision
- Violations and/or returns to Secure Youth Treatment Facility
- Step-downs to less restrictive programs

PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2023: (WELF. & INST. CODE (D)(8))

Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.

With only five individual youths having been committed to the County's secure track program as of this fiscal year (FY 2024-25), the County has faced some start-up challenges in finding viable partnerships through its competitive bidding process to build scalable programs. The County will continue to explore solutions, including regional and state initiatives, to develop linkages to housing, employment, and education services and fill other service gaps for secure track minors and nonminors to receive the programs and services they need.

Despite these early challenges, the County has made progress in the following areas, *discussed in more detail in Part 3:*

- **Request for Proposals, New Programs:** In June 2023, the County awarded its first series of contracts secured by Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant funds to community-based organizations, following an RFP process.
- **Higher Education:** The County's secure track program saw its first college graduate in August 2024, with two more expected this school year. The success of these students highlights the County's commitment to providing college counseling, financial aid assistance, and other supports to juvenile hall minors and nonminors wishing to pursue education after high school.
- **Career Technical Education:** The Career Technical Education Program offered through the San Mateo County Office of Education engages high school students who are in custody at the Juvenile Hall with real-world technology and problem-based, hands-on learning.
- **Healthy Living Ambassador's Cooking Program:** Probation has partnered with University of California Cooperative Extension to implement a culinary arts program inside the juvenile hall.
- **Tablets for the Juvenile Hall:** Probation has partnered with Orijin, PBC to provide tablet computers to minors and nonminors inside the juvenile hall.
- **Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse:** The Probation Department has partnered with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, a San Mateo County-based nonprofit, to implement healthy relationships workshops and mental health groups tailored for different age groups, including transition aged youth, as well as workgroups for the parents of incarcerated minors and nonminors.
- **Addiction Education Society:** For fiscal year 2024-25, the Probation Department partnered with Addiction Education Society, a San Mateo County-based nonprofit, to provide an addiction prevention program to minors and nonminors at the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.

- **Alcohol and Other Disorder Case Manager:** The Probation Department has collaborated with BHRS to create and fund an Alcohol and Other Disorder Case Manager position which will be embedded within the BHRS clinical team. The position will provide substance abuse prevention, intervention, and rehab services to minors and nonminors at the juvenile hall, including those in the target population.
- **Expansion of Services through Fresh Lifelines for Youth:** This year, Fresh Lifelines for Youth is expanding its case management, career exploration, and reentry services for secure track minors and nonminors. The enhanced partnership with the County allows Fresh Lifelines for Youth to allocate two full-time case managers to the secure track population to support day-to-day issues that arise, build social and emotional learning skills, provide career readiness and life skills, establish credible messenger opportunities, and support step-down opportunities.
- **Mural Project 2025:** This year, professional artists from the community led a youth mural-making project at the juvenile hall, fostering collaboration, creativity, and a sense of pride. The Probation Department partnered with the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture and used facility improvement funds to fund the project.

As we continue to make progress in implementing these and other projects, the County looks forward to updating its plan in the future with the benefit of new knowledge, experience, and data regarding challenges, opportunities, and areas of need for the target population.

DRAFT



THE OFFICE OF SENATE MAJORITY WHIP
LENA A. GONZALEZ
SENATOR 33RD SENATE DISTRICT

SB 48 (Gonzalez) Safe Access to Schools

SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 48 would restrict local educational agencies (LEAs) and local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement officers on or near school grounds, providing additional protections for students and families to attend school safely.

EXISTING LAW

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) restricts LEAs from releasing certain private student information without parental or guardian consent.

Assembly Bill (AB) 699 (O'Donnell, Chapter 493, Statutes of 2017) prohibits school officials and employees of an LEA from collecting or requesting the citizenship or immigration status of pupils or their family members, except under narrow circumstances. The bill also required the Attorney General (AG) to create model policies regarding how LEAs should handle requests for access to information and school grounds for the purposes of immigration enforcement. Finally, the bill required all LEAs to adopt the AG's model policies, or equivalent policies, by July 1, 2018.

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

The U.S. Supreme Court has long guaranteed that all children have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S.

202 (1982)).¹ The incoming federal administration has repeatedly vowed to carry out “the largest deportation program in American history,” consequently threatening this right and California’s educational promise to its students.

In the face of unprecedented deportation threats, schools and communities must provide students and their families guaranteed access to school campuses without fear of deportation, harassment, or intimidation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers.

Currently, LEAs can provide some meaningful protections for their students against immigration enforcement if they have implemented the Attorney General’s relevant model policies and provide staff with appropriate training and counsel. Schools are also currently considered “protected areas,” per ICE’s own policies, and federal immigration officers must, to the extent possible, refrain from conducting enforcement actions in or near a protected area.²

However, the published “protected area” policy may be modified at any time. Further, LEA governing board policies may be insufficient for immigrant students and families to feel safe to attend school.³ The threat of wide-scale deportations of undocumented persons is expected to have a significant chilling effect on education for undocumented children and children of undocumented parents, resulting in decreased school attendance and attendance-based school funding intended to support all pupils.

¹ [Access to Education - Rule of Law | United States Courts](#)

² https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf.

³ [10029.2 Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations.pdf](#)

If immigration raids take place on campuses or on the streets and neighborhoods surrounding schools, parents will be less likely to send their students to schools, creating learning loss for students, and decreased funding for our already overburdened schools.

SOLUTION

SB 48 would strengthen California's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students, regardless of their immigration status. Specifically, the bill would prevent an LEA and its staff from granting an ICE officer permission to access a school campus without a judicial warrant. Additionally, SB 48 would prevent LEA personnel from disclosing the education records or any information about a pupil, pupil's family and household, school employee, or teacher to an ICE officer without a judicial warrant.

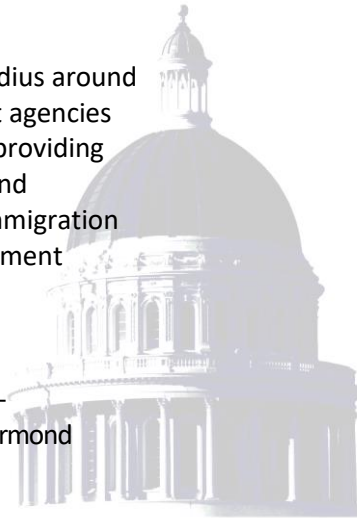
Lastly, SB 48 bill would establish a one-mile radius around a school site where California law enforcement agencies will be prohibited from collaborating with, or providing any information about a pupil, pupil's family and household, school employee, or teacher, to immigration authorities regarding any immigration enforcement actions.

SPONSOR

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond

CONTACT

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Juvenile Justice Commission
Delinquency Prevention Commission

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Juvenile Court

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April 20, 2025

Honorable Lena Gonzalez
California State Senator, 33rd District
1021 O Street, Suite 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 48 (Gonzalez) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Gonzalez:

The San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Commission is proud to support SB 48, which will restrict Local Educational Agencies (LEA's) and local law enforcement agencies from assisting federal immigration enforcement officers on or near school grounds—providing additional protections for students and families to attend school safely. The bill will also prevent school personnel and law enforcement from sharing any information – formal or informal -- about students, their families, or households, with federal immigration officials.

SB 48 supports our mission to protect the well-being of all youth by ensuring California schools remain safe and trusted spaces for students and their families. It also reflects our commitment to upholding the dignity of every child—regardless of immigration status—by ensuring access to education and essential services without fear of discrimination or deportation.

The U.S. Supreme Court has long guaranteed that all children have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)). California has taken several steps to protect this right including limiting when immigration or citizenship status information about pupils and their families can be collected by school officials as well as prohibiting the use of state and local law enforcement agencies and school police from engaging in immigration enforcement, except in narrow circumstances.



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While these laws have strengthened student safety, fear among the undocumented community persists. Immigration raids near school campuses cause fear among vulnerable communities, and consequently, parents are less likely to feel safe sending their children to school. California schools are working hard on addressing chronic school absenteeism, and threats of immigration raids will negatively impact this work, endangering attendance-based school funding and the quality of education provided.

SB 48 will strengthen California's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students, regardless of their immigration status. Specifically, the bill will prevent an LEA and its staff from granting federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers' permission to access a school campus without a judicial warrant. The bill also prevents LEA personnel from disclosing the education records or any information – formal or informal -- about a pupil, pupil's family and household, school employee, or teacher to an ICE officer without a judicial warrant. Finally, SB 48 will establish a one-mile radius around a school site restricting local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement officers within that zone.

Students and members of mixed status families are currently facing increased fear of deportation, and the recent immigration raids in the state demonstrate the current administration's anti-immigrant agenda. Schools must remain a safe space for all students to learn and thrive. For the above reasons, the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Commission supports SB 48.

Sincerely,

Johanna Rasmussen
Chair, San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Commission