



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA**

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FACT SHEET

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Juvenile Collaborative Justice Courts

Juvenile collaborative justice courts are specialized court programs designed to address the unique developmental, behavioral health, and social service needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. These courts aim to improve youth outcomes, reduce recidivism, and promote long-term stability by combining judicial oversight with individualized, developmentally appropriate treatment and support services in lieu of deeper system involvement, detention, or placement.

Collaborative court design

California's juvenile collaborative courts apply the key principles of collaborative justice through a non-adversarial, multidisciplinary team approach. These courts typically include participation from judicial officers, attorneys, probation, behavioral health providers, education partners, child welfare agencies, and community-based organizations.

Juvenile collaborative courts utilize dedicated calendar and consistent judicial supervision to allow for ongoing monitoring of youth progress and engagement. Programs emphasize family involvement, trauma-informed practices, and culturally responsive services tailored to the needs of youth and their caregivers.

Juvenile collaborative courts

Serving youth with varying levels of risk and need, these courts employ evidence-based informed practices aligned with national standards, such as those for juvenile drug treatment courts.

Key priorities:

- Developmentally appropriate interventions recognizing adolescent brain development
- Family engagement as a central component of success
- Trauma-informed and culturally responsive care

- Individualized case planning based on assessed risk and need
- Use of incentives and responses to encourage positive behavior change

Court programs tailor supervision and services to each youth and may include specialized tracks for different populations based on the risk-need-responsivity model. These courts prioritize reducing unnecessary system involvement and connecting youth and families to community-based services whenever possible.

Types and number of juvenile collaborative courts in California

Juvenile collaborative courts are available in many California counties, though availability and program types vary depending on local resources and needs. These courts rely on funding, cross-system partnerships, treatment availability, and supportive services such as transportation assistance, family support, and peer mentoring to ensure equitable access and successful outcomes. As with adult courts, program structure, eligibility criteria, supervision intensity, and services vary across jurisdictions to reflect local priorities and resources.

The most common types of juvenile collaborative courts in California are:

- **Juvenile drug courts:** Provide intensive intervention and community supervision for youth involved in substance abuse.
- **Juvenile mental health courts:** Focus on minors with mental health diagnoses, ensuring access to treatment and academic support.
- **Youth domestic violence/dating violence courts:** Address abusive behavior while ensuring victim safety and support.
- **Girls'/CSEC (commercially sexually exploited children) courts:** Serve girls with histories of trauma or exploitation, focusing on service provision rather than detention.
- **Peer/youth courts:** Utilize a model where teens serve in courtroom roles, such as jurors and attorneys, for misdemeanor or minor felony charges.

Although operating outside the juvenile court, **family treatment courts**—also known as dependency drug courts—are specialized, collaborative courts designed for parents involved in the child welfare system due to substance use disorders.

The following tables display annual self-reported data compiled by the Judicial Council of California regarding the specific categories of juvenile collaborative justice courts currently in operation.

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Table 1. Number of Counties With Juvenile Collaborative Justice Courts, by Type

Type of Court	Number of Counties
Family Treatment / Dependency Drug	30
Drug — Juvenile	18
Girls' / CSEC	7
Mental Health — Juvenile	6
Truancy	11

Note: Counts reflect how many of California's 58 counties have at least one active program, using broad definitions. Not all juvenile collaborative justice courts are included. Data are self-reported annually.

Table 2 identifies the counties that maintain at least one of the major types of juvenile collaborative justice courts within their superior courts.

Table 2. Counties With Juvenile Collaborative Justice Courts

County	Family Treatment/ Dependency Drug	Drug — Juvenile	Girls'/ CSEC	Mental Health — Juvenile	Truancy
Alameda	✓				
Alpine					
Amador					
Butte					
Calaveras					
Colusa					
Contra Costa					✓
Del Norte*					
El Dorado					
Fresno			✓	✓	
Glenn		✓			
Humboldt		✓			
Imperial*					
Inyo					
Kern					
Kings					
Lake	✓	✓			

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County	Family Treatment/ Dependency Drug	Drug — Juvenile	Girls'/ CSEC	Mental Health — Juvenile	Truancy
Lassen					
Los Angeles	✓	✓	✓		
Madera					
Marin					
Mariposa					
Mendocino	✓				
Merced	✓			✓	
Modoc		✓			
Mono*					
Monterey		✓		✓	✓
Napa					✓
Nevada		✓			
Orange		✓	✓		✓
Placer		✓			
Plumas					
Riverside	✓				
Sacramento	✓		✓		✓
San Benito					
San Bernardino		✓	✓	✓	
San Diego	✓		✓	✓	
San Francisco	✓				
San Joaquin	✓				
San Luis Obispo	✓				
San Mateo					
Santa Barbara					
Santa Clara	✓				✓
Santa Cruz	✓				✓
Shasta	✓				
Sierra					
Siskiyou	✓	✓			
Solano	✓				✓
Sonoma	✓			✓	✓
Stanislaus	✓	✓			
Sutter					

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County	Family Treatment/ Dependency Drug	Drug — Juvenile	Girls'/ CSEC	Mental Health — Juvenile	Truancy
Tehama	✓	✓			
Trinity					
Tulare					
Tuolumne	✓				
Ventura	✓				
Yolo					
Yuba	✓				

* No response received in 2025. Information taken from last year's submission or publicly available information on court website.

Contact:

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Additional resources:

For further information, please visit courts.ca.gov/juvenile-collaborative-courts.