

**Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento
Sitting as the Juvenile Court**

9605 Kiefer Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95827

(916) 876-7753

For more information, visit the following
web sites:

Sacramento Superior Court
www.saccourt.com

Sacramento County Probation Department
www.probation.saccounty.net
or call (916) 875-6996

If you wish to participate in providing advice to the Juvenile Court,
you may apply to be a member of the Parents Advising the Court
Committee (PACC). Applications are available at the Juvenile Court
reception desk or by telephoning (916) 876-7753.



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JUVENILE COURT: HOW IT WORKS

08/05/05

The purposes of the delinquency court are to protect, to give guidance, and to punish children who commit delinquent acts and to protect the community.

General Information

1. How do I get to Juvenile Court?

The Juvenile Court Delinquency Division is located in the B.T. Collins Juvenile Center, 9605 Kiefer Boulevard, Sacramento. There is a Regional Transit (RT) bus stop on Branch Center Road, adjacent to the parking lot of the Juvenile Center. Directions from Highway 50: Exit Bradshaw Road and travel south for approximately one mile; turn right onto Kiefer Boulevard and then turn right onto Branch Center Road.

2. Is there a dress code?

Proper attire for a court appearance displays respect for the court and shows the court that you and your parent take this case seriously. If you or your parent fail to observe the following dress code, that person will be **REQUIRED TO GO HOME** to change before your appearance in court (see Standing Order SSC-JV-05-056 on the Court's Web site: www.saccourt.com).

- Pants must not sag below the waist or be worn in such a manner that otherwise expose under garments.
- Tank tops, strapless tops and other clothing revealing excessive skin shall not be worn.

10. Unsure of your next court date or what happens next?

When you meet your assigned attorney, ask him/her for a business card with his/her phone number. Contact your attorney when you have questions or information to provide. The Juvenile Public Defender Division can be reached by calling (916) 875-5077. The Conflict Criminal Defender Coordinator can be reached by calling (916) 875-5626 for court appointed cases where the Public Defender is not eligible to handle the case.

11. Will my juvenile record be sealed?

Most juvenile records are "confidential," but are not automatically "sealed." Minimum qualifications for sealing a record include either being over the age of 18 or 5 years having passed since you were released from probation. The decision to seal a juvenile court record is in the discretion of the court. Even for a person 18 or older, the court will usually require a showing of good behavior for at least two years after getting off probation. Applications for the petition are available at Juvenile Court Reception. The phone number is (916) 876-7753.

12. Can my juvenile court record be used against me after I turn 18?

Certain serious or violent felonies are "strikes" under the "three-strikes law" if committed by a 16 or 17 year old. Those felonies, if found true in Juvenile Court, must be used against you if you are ever arrested as an adult. Such juvenile records are not confidential and can never be sealed.

13. Does Juvenile Hall allow visitors?

Your parent(s) may call the Juvenile Hall at (916) 875-6996 for information about designated visiting hours in the Juvenile Hall.

8. What are possible dispositions of my case?

A disposition is similar to a sentencing that occurs on adult criminal cases.

A judge will decide whether you have committed acts you are accused of. If the judge makes a “true finding,” or “sustains the petition” this means there is enough evidence for the judge to find beyond a reasonable doubt that you did commit acts.

After a “true finding,” the judge will conduct a disposition hearing to decide the consequences of your acts. Any of the following may occur:

- You may remain at home on informal probation supervision for up to six months and could have the petition dismissed.
- You may be made a ward of the juvenile court and placed on “formal” probation supervision for six months or up to your 21st birthday.
- You may be placed on probation and ordered to live in a relative’s home, a private residential group home or an institutional program, like the Youth Center.
- You may be placed on probation and ordered to reside at the Sacramento County Boys Ranch.
- You may be committed to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Facilities (formally California Youth Authority).

9. Will I be liable for financial obligations?

If the charges are found true, parents and minors are both liable for restitution to the victim and a restitution fine. Parents will also receive a bill reimbursing the County of Sacramento for the following court fees and costs: attorney’s fees, probation department services provided to the minor (such as food and laundry) and foster care costs, if applicable.

- Shorts and mini skirts are not allowed.
- Baseball hats, stocking caps or knit caps must not be worn in the courtroom.
- Shirts, blouses or jackets cannot contain inappropriate writing or pictures, including references to violence, alcohol, drugs, or sexual matter.
- For your own safety, avoid wearing clothing with predominant colors that could be interpreted by others as symbolizing gang association and displaying items, tattoos and symbols that are associated with gang activity.

3. What can I expect when I come to court?

For your safety and the safety of others, the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department has a visible presence throughout the building. Every person entering the building is required to walk through a metal detector in the presence of a Sacramento Deputy Sheriff. Personal items are screened through an x-ray machine. Please contact one of the officers on duty if you have any safety concerns.

4. What behavior is expected of me?

The following conduct is expected of you while at the Juvenile Center:

- You must be accompanied and appear in court with a parent or a legal guardian.
- Leave all metal items at home or in your vehicle. Attempting to enter the courthouse with such items in your

presence will slow you down at the metal detectors. Security officers will confiscate items or request that you remove the item from your person prior to entering the building.

- Parents and out-of-custody minors must check in with Juvenile Court Reception located on the first floor at the time designated on the notice to appear. A “restaurant style” pager will be assigned to you and you will be instructed to sit in a designated area in close proximity to the court department where your hearing will be held.
- Once your pager goes off, you must assemble in front of the court department where your case is assigned and receive further instruction by your attorney or probation officer. The pager system has limited outdoor range, so you must keep Reception informed anytime that you exit and re-enter the building. If you are not in the lobby when your case is paged, your matter may be passed until the end of the calendar.
- Food and drink are not permitted inside the building. Food and drink must be consumed outside the building. Do not chew gum while in the courtroom.
- It is unlawful for persons under the age of 18 to possess tobacco products. If you are found smoking or in possession of tobacco while at the Juvenile Center, you are subject to arrest.
- Your parent should make every effort to arrange for child care for your younger brothers and sisters and not bring them to Court. However, if necessary, Juvenile Court does have a designated child care area for younger children not involved in the court proceeding. (Opening soon.)
- Cellular phones, pagers and alarms must be turned off (or in vibrate mode) while you are in the courtroom. If they go off in the courtroom, they are subject to being confiscated.

5. Do I need an attorney?

You have a right to be represented by an attorney. The Juvenile Court automatically appoints the Public Defender to represent you, unless you can afford to hire an attorney. Your parent may hire an attorney to represent their separate concerns. The Court will generally not appoint an attorney for your parents.

6. Can I get an interpreter?

Interpreters are provided by the court. Please call the Juvenile Court at (916) 876-7753 at least two days before your court appearance if you and/or your parents need an interpreter. Please confirm with Juvenile Court Reception at the time you check-in for court that an interpreter was ordered for your case.

7. Are juvenile matters confidential?

Most juvenile matters are confidential and personal information about you and the charges are not revealed to the general public. Therefore, only one case is allowed in the courtroom at a time. You will be expected to wait in the lobby until your case is called. Please be patient with the court staff and your attorney. The court staff is trained to assist you while maintaining confidentiality.

However, hearings concerning certain serious charges are open to the public. Those hearings are not confidential.

Any comments or questions regarding the policies of Juvenile Court can be directed to the Administration by calling (916) 875-5686.