Superior Court of California, County of Placer County

Policy for Court-Appointed Professionals in Juvenile Court Cases

SECTION I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF POLICY

The Superior Court of California, County of Placer (hereafter known as "Court") recognizes the important role medical and psychological experts play in the adjudication of minors in the juvenile justice system. The Court is cognizant of the fact that a minor's developmental, mental, and/or physical condition may become a major factor in its decision-making and that these factors affect the procedural and substantive rights of the minor. Services provided by our medical and psychological experts are an integral part of the judicial process.

The important role these experts play in the process necessitates that this Court adopt the following policies and procedures, regarding the use of qualified experts who provide services to the Court in Juvenile Justice proceedings. This set of procedures establishes a uniform and systematic process to govern the appointment of and performance by experts. The Court, in recognition of the importance of the services provided by these experts and of the need for uniform standards to govern the process, hereby adopts these policies and procedures.

SECTION II. LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy shall in no way limit the ability of a judicial officer from making orders as permissible by law and in the interest of justice. This policy does not prescribe a specific course of action for any court-appointed expert executing their duties upon appointment.

SECTION III. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONALS

California Rules of Court, rule 5.645(d)(1)(B), sets forth the minimum qualifications an applicant must have to be appointed as an expert.

3.1 To be Appointed as an Expert

To be appointed as an expert, an individual must be either:

(a.) A licensed psychiatrist who has successfully completed four (4) years of medical school and either four (4) years of general psychiatry residency, including one (1) year of internship and two (2) years of child and adolescent fellowship training, or three (3) years of general psychiatry residency, including one (1) year of internship and one (1) year of residency that focus on children and adolescents and one (1) year of child and adolescent fellowship training; or

(b.) A clinical, counseling, or school psychologist who has received a doctoral degree in psychology from an educational institution accredited by an organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and who is licensed as a psychologist.

In addition to either of these qualifications, pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 5.645(d)(1)(C)(i)-(vi), the expert whether a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist must:

i. Possess demonstrable professional experience addressing child and adolescent developmental issues, including the emotional, behavioral, and cognitive impairments of children and adolescents;
ii. Have expertise in the cultural and social characteristics of children and adolescents;
iii. Possess a curriculum vitae reflecting training and experience in the forensic evaluation of children;
iv. Be familiar with juvenile competency standards and accepted criteria used in evaluating juvenile competence;
v. Possess a comprehensive understanding of effective interventions as well as treatment, training, and programs for the attainment of competency available to children and adolescents; and
vi. Be proficient in the language preferred by the child, or if that is not feasible, employ the services of a certified interpreter and use assessment tools that are linguistically and culturally appropriate for the child.

3.2 Qualifications for the Evaluation of Minors as to Certain Sex Offenses
Appointments for the evaluation of minors for disposition following a sustained petition[1] for certain sex offenses must meet all of the requirements outlined in Sections 3.1 above and demonstrate significant education, experience, training, and expertise in the evaluation and/or treatment of sex offenders.

Experts interested in serving on the Court's appointment list must complete the "Court-Appointed Professional Cover Sheet" and return it, along with a signed application, and all supplemental documents indicated therein, to the Court via email at: courtadmin@placer.courts.ca.gov or by mail to the following address:

Superior Court of California, County of Placer
Attn: Presiding Judge
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661-9072

Application materials received by the court shall be reviewed by the Judges of the Court. The Court reserves the right to exercise its full discretion to appoint, or not appoint, a professional to the panel list or specified class. A decision by the Court is final and not subject to review. On occasion, a decision to deny an application may indicate that the Applicant can re-submit his/her application at a later time. Applicants shall be notified of approval or denial to serve on the Court's appointment list via the contact information provided within the application. Upon approval, the professional shall be added to the appointment list for the respective area of expertise and become eligible for appointment immediately.

SECTION IV. APPOINTMENT

Experts shall be appointed from the Court's appointment list whenever possible. If extenuating circumstances require appointment of an expert not currently serving on the appointment list, the required application materials shall be requested and reviewed by the Court upon receipt.

[1] The Juvenile Justice Court-Appointed Expert Panel shall be advised that minors are never "convicted" of an offense in juvenile court, nor do they plead "guilty." Our terminology is that if the charge is found true, the Petition is sustained. A minor may admit or deny the charge, but does not ever plead guilty or not guilty.

When the Court appoints an expert to perform services, the Court will make an order for the appointment and provide copies to the parties and the appointed person(s).

SECTION V. ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

The compensation for expert psychological consultations and full evaluations are as follows:

Code	Description	Expense	Rate	Max. Hours	Max. Pay
Welfare & Institutions Code § 709:	Consultation	Court	$200	3	$600
	Evaluation[2]	Court	$200	8	$1600
Evidence Code § 730:	Consultation	Court	$200	3	$600
	Evaluation	Court	$200	8	$1600
Evidence Code § 1026/1027[2]:	Consultation	Requesting Party	$200	3	$600
	Evaluation		$200	8	$1600
Penal Code § 288.1[2]	Evaluation	Court	$200	8	$1600
Expedited report supplemental fee	reports **required by the court** less than 21 days from referral date	Court		N/A	$100
In-custody evaluations supplemental fee:		Court		N/A	$100
Missed Appointment Fee[3]		Court	N/A	N/A	$250

*New rates apply to any referral conducted after July 1, 2023

SECTION VI. NON-BILLABLE ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES

Unless pre-approved in writing by the Presiding Judge or Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, psychological experts cannot bill for travel time.

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[2] In an effort to support new individuals entering the alienist/forensic psychologist profession, the Court has agreed to an alternative rate of $2,500 for Penal Code 288.1, Evidence Code 1026/1027 , and Welfare and Institutions Code 709 evaluations performed by Fellows at the UC Davis Medical Center. Appointments shall be limited to these two sections.

[3] Only two attempts to perform an evaluation are authorized by each order. If a minor misses two appointments, the expert should not attempt to schedule additional appointments and shall advise counsel and the court of the unsuccessful attempts. Professionals will not be compensated for additional attempts, beyond the first two, to complete an assessment or evaluation without a new appointment order.

SECTION VII. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND BILLING PROCEDURE

Experts providing services payable by the County must possess a County vendor number in order to bill for services. To obtain a vendor number, complete an Internal Revenue Service form W-9, as well as a State CA-590 form, and send them to the following address:

Placer County Auditor-Controller
2970 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Experts providing services payable by the Court must possess a vendor number from the Court. To obtain a vendor number, complete a Payee Data Record Form and send it to the following address:

Placer Superior Court
Attn: Finance
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

When billing for services, a copy of the court order for appointment and an itemized invoice must be submitted with a completed Payment Voucher.

If requesting reimbursement for mileage, proof of mileage shall be provided through a print-out travel route from Google Maps.

All reimbursement requests, regardless of which entity is responsible for payment, shall be submitted to the Court's Finance Division at the following address:

Placer Superior Court
Accounting Unit/Payables
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

Requests for reimbursement must be submitted upon disposition of the case.

SECTION VIII. REMOVAL FROM APPOINTMENT LIST

The Court reserves the right to exercise its full discretion to remove a experts from the panel list or specified class. The expert shall be notified by email and/or mail, at the most up-to-date address provided to the Court, of any removal intent. The expert may respond, in writing, to the Presiding Judge within 30 court days. If the Court does not receive written response the expert shall be removed from the appointment list without further communication from the Court. A decision by the Court to remove a panelist is final and not subject to review.

Reasons for removal from an appointment list includes, but are not limited to, any disciplinary action, including being placed on probation, against the professional by the professional's licensing agency, or the suspension or revocation of the professional's license by the professional's licensing agency, any criminal charge involving moral turpitude, falsification of any material statement made in the application for appointment or any subsequent claims/reports/requests for authorization in the course of appointed service, failure to maintain eligibility under these rules or the California Rules of Court, inability to perform duties with

professionalism, competence, and diligence, failure to personally provide services agreed upon for the appointment, and any conduct that the Court deems inappropriate or unbecoming of an appointed professional.

Professionals may request, in writing, to be removed from an appointment list. Requests should be sent to the Court via email at: courtadmin@placer.courts.ca.gov or by mail to the following address:

Superior Court of California, County of Placer
Attn: Presiding Judge
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661-9072

APPROVAL

This policy will remain in place unless rescinded or modified by the Presiding Judge and Court Executive Officer.

Judge Jeffrey S. Penney
Presiding Judge

Date: 10/27/26

Jake Chatters
Court Executive Officer

Date: 10/26/2026