
Access to Legal Services

973.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Agency Content

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures to ensure the right of youth to have access to the courts and legal services. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

973.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

Agency Content

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 § 1377;
- California Penal Code § 825 (b);
- Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 209, 210 & 885.

973.3 POLICY

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Youth shall be provided access to the courts and legal services while being housed in a juvenile facility.

973.4 ACCESS TO COURTS AND LEGAL SERVICES

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Youth in juvenile facilities shall have access to the courts and legal services. This includes:

- (a) Access to a licensed attorney, and/or their authorized representative(s) upon request by the youth or their attorney. Once a request is made, staff shall assist the youth with making telephone or face-to-face contact with their attorney;
- (b) Provision for confidential consultation with attorney(s); the consultation shall take place at either the juvenile facility where the youth is housed or at the attorney/client rooms at the courthouse. To set an appointment, the attorney or the representative shall call the facility duty officer (DO). For emergent meetings without an appointment, the facility DO shall make every effort possible to accommodate the attorney or the representative; and
- (c) Unlimited free postage, legal correspondence, and cost-free telephone access. Youth shall also have access to telephone communication with their attorneys during waking hours upon request as appropriate.

Date last reviewed: 01/12/2024

Date(s) revised: 04/09/2019; 03/07/2016; and 06/27/2008

Created: 03/01/2000

Attachments: None