

CHAPTER 6 - JUVENILE COURT CONFIDENTIALITY AND MEDIA POLICIES

6.00 Scope of Rules.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the disclosure of juvenile case file records, the exchange of information between and among agencies concerned with court matters affecting children, media coverage of juvenile court matters, and admission of public and persons having interest in a juvenile case shall be governed by the rules contained in this chapter and by Sacramento County Juvenile Court Standing Order SCC-JV-99-021 (Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; revised 1/1/2022)

6.01 Exchange of Information and Disclosure of Juvenile Court Records.

(A) The Probation Department, Family Court Services staff, Probate Court investigators, and the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services may disclose to each other information concerning any minor who is the subject of any investigation or any matter pending before the court as necessary for each entity to carry out its duties to the court. Confidential information exchanged under this rule remains confidential and shall not be further released except as provided by law, these rules, or other order of the court.

(B) Access to juvenile case file records including documents and information maintained by the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services and the Probation Department is governed by Welfare and Institutions Code section 827, California Rules of Court, rule 5.552 and Sacramento County Juvenile Court Standing Order SSC-JV-99-021. (Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; revised 1/1/2022)

6.02 Public Admission and Media Coverage of Juvenile Court Matters.

Local Rules, rules 6.02 – 6.09 address media coverage of Juvenile Court matters and admission of public and persons having interest in a juvenile case. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, these rules apply to print and electronic broadcast coverage of both delinquency and dependency matters, whether taking place in or outside of the courtroom. This rule adopts the definitions used in California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(b). (Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; 1/1/2022)

6.03 Notice and Request to Attend Court Proceedings.

(A) Non-Confidential Delinquency Proceedings. Delinquency proceedings described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 676(a) are open to the public. Print and broadcast media representatives may attend those proceedings without prior permission of the court, if seating is available in the courtroom. However, in the absence of a court order as described in Local Rules, rule 6.04, no cameras or recording equipment shall be permitted in the courtroom.

(B) Confidential Proceedings. In all other delinquency cases and for all dependency cases, permission to attend the court proceedings is in the discretion of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court or bench officer presiding over the matter. A written request seeking permission to attend confidential proceedings must be filed using the Request to Attend Juvenile Court Proceedings (local form JC\E-006). The original and one copy must be submitted.

(C) Filing. Either type of request may be filed in person, by mail or by email. Requests to attend delinquency matters shall be filed at the 1st floor reception counter at the Juvenile Courthouse, 9605 Kiefer Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827 or by email to JuvenileCourtAdmin@saccourt.ca.gov. Requests to attend dependency matters shall be filed at the 3rd floor reception window at the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826 or by email to JuvenileCourtAdmin@saccourt.ca.gov.

(D) Timeliness of Filing. Unless good cause is shown, either type of request must be filed by (a) 10:00 a.m. the day of the hearing for cases that are calendared for the afternoon session; or (b) 3:30 p.m. the business day before the hearing for cases that are calendared for the morning session. The court clerk shall serve on counsel a copy of the request by personal delivery in the courtroom prior to the court hearing. (Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; revised 1/1/2018; revised 1/1/2022)

6.04 Use of Cameras or Recording Equipment.

(A) Dependency Proceedings. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(e)(6), the bench officer presiding over any dependency matter shall not have discretion to permit cameras or recording equipment in the courtroom.

(B) Confidential Delinquency Proceedings. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(e)(6), the bench officer presiding over any delinquency matter not described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 676(a) shall not have discretion to permit cameras or recording equipment in the courtroom.

(C) Non-Confidential Delinquency Proceedings. Permission to use cameras or recording equipment while attending non-confidential Delinquency Court proceedings is in the discretion of the bench officer presiding over the matter. A California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, the Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage (Judicial Council form (MC-510), must be filed in order to seek the exercise of such discretion.

(1) A California Rules of Court, rule 1.150 request may be filed in person by mail at the 1st floor reception counter at the Juvenile Courthouse, 9605 Kiefer Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827. Requests may also be submitted by email to JuvenileCourtAdmin@saccourt.ca.gov.

(2) Unless good cause is shown, a California Rules of Court, rule 1.150 request must be filed at least five court days before the hearing to be covered. The court clerk shall serve on counsel a copy of the request by personal delivery in the courtroom prior to the court hearing.

(3) When photography or video/audio recording is permitted during a Delinquency Court proceeding, the camera view must be restricted to the shoulders of the minor and below. No view of the front or back of the head of the minor and/or his/her family shall be recorded.

(Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; revised 1/1/2018; revised 1/1/2022)

6.05 Identification, Check-in and Waiting Area.

(A) Identification. All members of the print and broadcast media must display visible identification at all times while inside the Juvenile Courthouse (delinquency) or on the 3rd floor of the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse (dependency).

(B) Check-In. Upon arrival at the 1st floor of the Juvenile Courthouse (delinquency) or the 3rd floor of the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse (dependency), all members of the media shall inform the receptionist of their presence. The receptionist shall inform the appropriate courtroom personnel of the names of the media representatives present so that their attendance can be assured when the case is called.

(C) Waiting Area. Cameras and other recording equipment must be taken immediately to the designated media waiting area upon arrival as directed by court security. Such equipment may not be stored or displayed in the lobby area where minors are present.

(Adopted 1/1/2013); revised 1/1/2022)

6.06 (Deleted effective 1/1/2014)

6.07 Locations for Photography and/or Video/Audio Recording.

(A) Inside. No photography or video/audio recording shall take place in the hallways or lobby areas of the Juvenile Courthouse and/or on the 3rd floor of the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse. In addition, no photography or video/audio recording shall take place in the courtrooms when court is not in session, before or after a case is formally called on-the-record.

(B) Outside. Without the express consent of the child/minor or his/her attorney, there shall be no photography or video/audio recording of the child/minor or his/her family on the sidewalks or parking lot adjacent to the Juvenile Courthouse and/or the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse.

No photography or video/audio recording shall take place within 100 feet of the front door of the Juvenile Courthouse or of the front door of the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse. Photography or video/audio recording beyond 100 feet of the front door of those buildings shall not include any view of the front door of the building or persons entering or leaving that door. The southwest corner of the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse building that contains the name of the building is more than 100 feet from the front door of the building. Camera or video recording is permitted at those locations without order of the court.

No photography or video recording shall take place at the rear of the Juvenile Courthouse or the B.T. Collins Juvenile Center building that displays the security and/or booking entrance to the Youth Detention Facility.
(Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; revised 1/1/2018)

6.08 Pooling.

Due to the small size of the delinquency courtrooms and the limited seating available, in all cases where video recording of a delinquency case is permitted by court order for more than one broadcast media station, only a single camera shall be allowed in the courtroom. A condition of granting the order to record the courtroom session shall include a requirement that such stations arrange for a pooling and sharing of the recorded material.
(Adopted 1/1/2013)

6.09 Photography or Video/Audio Recording of Minors in Juvenile Institutions.

Except upon an order issued by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, no photograph or video recording of any portion of the body of a minor detained in, or committed to, the Youth Detention Facility is permitted.
(Adopted 1/1/2013; revised 1/1/2014; revised 1/1/2018; revised 1/1/2022)