



**San Mateo County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions**



PURPOSE

Highlight the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission's mandate, our efforts and accomplishments, and the urgent challenges facing system impacted youth and their families in San Mateo County.

MISSION

The Mission of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to be a public conscience in the best interest of young people. The Commission advocates for programs and services that prevent youth entry into the juvenile justice system, and that provide tools young people need to thrive and succeed in life. The Commission seeks to promote respect for the human dignity of all young people who enter the juvenile justice system and seeks to preserve their youth.

AUTHORITY



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974

Established federal standards protecting youth in detention or guiding states on juvenile justice practices.

California Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 225-232

Mandates every county in California shall have a Juvenile Justice Commission whose role is to inquire into the administration of juvenile justice in the county.

California Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 233-236

Authorizes the Board of Supervisors to establish, support, and maintain a Delinquency Prevention Commission, comprised of at least seven community members, to coordinate countywide delinquency prevention efforts.

Juvenile Justice System

- Focus on rehabilitation vs. punishment
- No Bail
- Cases decided by judge. No jury
- Most court hearings are confidential
- No fees for incarceration, supervision, testing
- Most juvenile records can be sealed over time



JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORMS

Statewide reforms that reshaped California's juvenile justice system and expanded county responsibilities.

AB 2417 (2022): Youth Bill of Rights established fundamental rights and protections for incarcerated youth.

SB 203 (2021): Requires minors to consult an attorney prior to questioning or waiving Miranda rights.

SB 823 (2020):

- Closed California's state youth prison system (DJJ, CYA).
- Shifted responsibility to counties to rehabilitate serious youth offenders in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF), where youth may stay until age 25.

SB 1391 (2018): Eliminated transfers of 14- and 15-year-olds to adult criminal court.

SB 439 (2018): Bars prosecution of children under 12 except in the most extreme cases.

Prop 57 (2016): Required judges, not prosecutors, to decide all youth transfers to adult court.

COMMISSION MANDATES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Facility Inspections

- Hillcrest Juvenile Hall
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility
- Maguire Correctional Facility
- Canyon Oaks Youth Center (STRTP)
- Elysian (STRTP)
- San Mateo County Receiving Home

Educational Evaluations

San Mateo County Office of Education: Court and Community Schools

- Hillcrest Juvenile Hall
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility
- Canyon Oaks Youth Center

2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT HOLDING FACILITY INSPECTIONS



- Belmont Police Department
- Burlingame Police Department
- Daly City Police Department
- East Palo Alto Police Department
- Menlo Park Police Department

- Redwood City Police Department
- San Bruno Police Department
- San Mateo Police Department
- San Mateo County Sheriff Department
- South San Francisco Police Department

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Programs and Handbooks

- Parent Support Group
- Suited for Success
- Handbook: How to Help Your Child After an Arrest
- Future Leaders: The Power of Youth in our Democracy
- Unlocked Potential: College Laptop Initiative
- MP3 Music Therapy
- Annual Holiday Gift Bags

Recognized as Statewide Leaders

- California Juvenile Justice Collaborative
- SACJJDP Policy & Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee in Sacramento.
- OYCR Working Group: Statewide Needs Assessment

Advancing Policy Reform

Juvenile Hall & SYTF

- Visiting Policy: Siblings
- Strip Search Policy

Protecting Youth Confidentiality

- District Attorney
- Media Outlets

Education and Outreach

Conference: Prevention in Action:
Schools, Communities, and Youth Voices
Wednesday, January 7, 2025
College of San Mateo

CHALLENGES

Incarcerated Youth

- Average Population: 25
- SYTF: 8
- Average Age: 16
- Race: 95% are Youth of Color
- Average Length of Detention: 55 days
- Cities: San Mateo, Redwood City,
- Daly City, East Palo Alto, San Bruno



- Food: Quality, Waste, Expense
- Medical and Dental Care
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Staffing Levels and Training

- 900% Increase New DA Filings
- Separate SYTF Unit
- Housing Youth at the County Jail
- SYTF Stepdown Programs
- Re-entry Services
- Basic Support

Parents & Families

- Language Barriers
- Fear of ICE
- Transportation
- Support Services
- Housing and Food Insecurity

COMMISSION CHALLENGES



- **Annual Inspection Reports:** Feedback and Implementation of Recommendations
- **Inclusion:** The Commission lacks a voice in county level discussions, planning, or input on decisions affecting vulnerable and system impacted youth.
- **Communication:** Limited coordination and information sharing across youth serving agencies.
- **Lack of Funding:** Measure K and WIC § 231



How You Can Make a Difference

- Follow up on annual inspection reports and their recommendations
- Allocate adequate funding for juvenile programs and services - Measure K
- Ensure the Commission can carry out its statutory responsibilities
- Attend a monthly meeting or watch them on YouTube
- Commit to be part of the solution
- Help increase awareness
- Stay informed