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FACT SHEET

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Collaborative Justice Court

Collaborative justice courts are successful interventions for people involved in the criminal legal system who have behavioral health and social service needs. These courts reduce recidivism and improve participant outcomes by combining judicial supervision with rigorously monitored treatment and services in lieu of detention.

The Design of Collaborative Justice Courts

Collaborative justice courts are designed to have a dedicated calendar and judge, and court operations are facilitated through a multidisciplinary, nonadversarial team approach with involvement from the court, attorneys, law enforcement, and community-based providers. Court placement is based on the primary treatment or service need and may be designed to resolve certain types of criminal cases.

California is home to over 400 collaborative justice courts. The different types of collaborative justice courts broadly fall within two categories:

- *Non-treatment collaborative courts*—courts with a principal focus on social service needs, and
- *Collaborative treatment courts*—courts with a principal focus on behavioral health need, such as substance use or mental illness.

Non-Treatment Collaborative Courts

Non-treatment collaborative courts are designed to address social service needs and local concerns. These courts resolve a range of legal matters and often focus on low-level offenses, such as traffic infractions and quality of life misdemeanors. Common types of non-treatment courts are homeless courts, which can help resolve citations and low-level offenses often resulting from conditions of homelessness and poverty, and community courts, which engage local communities to address common causes of criminal behavior while reducing barriers to housing and employment.

Collaborative Treatment Courts

Adult treatment courts target high risk, high need participants—participants who are assessed as having a high risk of returning to the criminal justice system and a serious or severe substance use disorder or mental illness. These courts follow an evidence-based model informed by the *Adult Treatment Court Best Practice*

Standards developed by All Rise (founded as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals). Each treatment court operates in a slightly different way with varying eligibility criteria, requirements, lengths, types of sanctions and incentives, services provided, and graduation criteria. Juvenile treatment courts take account of adolescent brain development, unique ways that substance use and mental health manifest in youth, and other issues unique to youth, including the original rehabilitative nature of juvenile court.

The treatment court model appreciates that no one program works for everyone. For example, providing too much, too little or the wrong type of treatment or service can reduce court effectiveness and fail to improve participant outcomes. Embracing the *risk, need, responsivity* (RNR) principle, treatment courts provide supervision and treatment based on the individual needs of each participant and incorporate service adjustments to support participant success. California courts have successfully used the RNR principle to design alternative tracks to expand treatment court access to participants with low or moderate risk and/or need levels, and to participants with other behavioral health needs, such as intellectual and developmental disabilities. The alternative tracks provide modified supervision and services and adapt best practices as necessary and appropriate to effectively serve each participant.

Types and Numbers of Collaborative Justice Courts in California

California has more than 400 collaborative courts in all but two small counties (Alpine and Colusa), with many counties having four or more types of collaborative courts. The most numerous types of court include adult drug courts (83), adult mental health courts (61), veterans treatment courts (47), dependency drug courts (32), juvenile drug courts (23), DUI courts (20), homeless courts (19), reentry courts (18), juvenile mental health courts (12), community courts (11), and truancy courts (10). The balance of courts includes Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000–SACPA courts, dual diagnosis courts, family law drug courts, tribal wellness courts, girls’ courts, and courts for commercially sexually exploited children–CSEC court, among others.

For more information, visit <https://courts.ca.gov/collaborative-justice-courts>.

Contact:

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Collaborative Justice Courts

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California Counties with Collaborative Justice Courts as of March 2025

<u>Superior Court of California, County of</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>DRUG & SACPA-ADULT</u>	<u>DRUG-JUVENILE</u>	<u>DRUG-DEPENDENCY</u>	<u>DUI</u>	<u>GIRLS/CSEC</u>	<u>HOMELESS</u>	<u>MENTAL HEALTH- ADULT</u>	<u>MENTAL HEALTH- JUVENILE</u>	<u>REENTRY - ADULT & JUVENILE</u>	<u>TRUANCY</u>	<u>VETERANS</u>
Number of Courts by Case Type	11	97	23	32	20	9	19	61	12	18	10	47
Alameda		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alpine												
Amador												X
Butte		X			X							X
Calaveras												X
Colusa												
Contra Costa							X	X				X
Del Norte		X										X
El Dorado					X			X				X
Fresno		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Glenn		X	X					X				
Humboldt		X	X				X		X			
Imperial		X						X				X
Inyo		X								X		
Kern		X					X	X				X
Kings		X						X				X
Lake			X	X								X
Lassen		X										
Los Angeles	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X
Madera		X						X				X
Marin	X	X						X				X
Mariposa		X						X				
Mendocino		X		X				X				
Merced		X		X			X	X	X			X
Modoc		X	X					X				
Mono		X										
Monterey		X	X		X			X	X		X	X
Napa		X		X				X				
Nevada		X	X		X			X				
Orange		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X

Collaborative Justice Courts

<u>Superior Court of California, County of</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>DRUG & SACPA -ADULT</u>	<u>DRUG-JUVENILE</u>	<u>DRUG-DEPENDENCY</u>	<u>DUI</u>	<u>ELDER ABUSE</u>	<u>GIRLS/CSEC</u>	<u>HOMELESS</u>	<u>MENTAL HEALTH- ADULT</u>	<u>MENTAL HEALTH- JUVENILE</u>	<u>REENTRY – ADULT & JUVENILE</u>	<u>TRUANCY</u>	<u>VETERANS</u>
Placer		X	X					X	X				X
Plumas	X	X											
Riverside		X	X	X					X				X
Sacramento		X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
San Benito		X							X				X
San Bernardino		X	X				X	X	X	X			X
San Diego		X		X			X	X	X	X	X		X
San Francisco	X	X		X					X	X	X		X
San Joaquin		X		X	X			X	X		X		X
San Luis Obispo		X		X					X				X
San Mateo		X			X				X				X
Santa Barbara		X			X		X	X	X				X
Santa Clara	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
Santa Cruz				X					X		X	X	X
Shasta		X	X						X	X			
Sierra		X											
Siskiyou		X	X	X					X				X
Solano		X	X	X	X				X		X	X	X
Sonoma		X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Stanislaus		X	X	X				X	X				X
Sutter		X											
Tehama		X	X	X					X				
Trinity		X											
Tulare		X							X				X
Tuolumne		X		X									
Ventura	X			X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Yolo		X							X				
Yuba		X											

This table reflects the most numerous types of collaborative justice courts in California.