

JUVENILE COURT JUDICIAL MANUAL: PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Appointment of Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and Other Experts in Juvenile Proceedings

I. Court Appointment of Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Other Experts

Evidence Code section 730 provides that when it appears to the court, at any time before or during the trial of an action, that expert evidence is or may be required by the court or any party to the action, the court, on its own motion, or on motion of any party, may appoint one or more experts to investigate, to render a report, and to testify as an expert at the trial of the action relative to the fact or matter as to which such expert evidence is or may be required. It also authorizes the court to fix the compensation for such services in addition to any service as a witness, at such amount as seems reasonable to the court.

II. Juvenile Court Panel of Appointed Psychiatrists and Psychologists.

A. Panel Membership

1. The juvenile court will maintain a panel of psychiatrists and a panel of psychologists who are available for appointment, to assist the parties and the court in juvenile court proceedings. The panels shall be known as the Juvenile Panel of Appointed Psychiatrists and Psychologists, herein referred to as the "panel."
2. Except as hereinafter provided, all appointments of psychiatrists and psychologists in juvenile court proceedings must be made from the panel.
3. The panel is separate from the panel of alienists maintained by the criminal division of the superior court. While membership on these panels may overlap, some psychiatrists and psychologists belong to one panel but not the other.
4. The membership of the panel will be determined by the Juvenile Court Committee on Appointed Attorneys and Experts, herein referred to as the "Committee."
5. To become a member of the panel, a psychiatrist or psychologist should meet the following minimum criteria, which will be considered by the Committee:
 - a. Psychiatrists and psychologists must be qualified from the standpoint of professional ability, ethics, and diligence to assume appointments and to properly discharge their duties to the court. They must also demonstrate a knowledge of forensic medicine and delinquency and / or dependency cases.
 - b. Psychiatrists must have graduated from an accredited school, be Board Certified and be licensed by the State of California.

- c. Psychologists must hold a doctorate degree and be licensed by the State of California.
 - d. Psychiatrists and psychologists must agree to adhere to the fee schedule set forth herein.
 - e. Psychiatrists and psychologists must agree to visit and interview minors in detention facilities. This requirement does not apply to certain panel members whose membership preceded the establishment of this requirement. Further, this requirement may be waived under exceptional circumstances.
 - f. The Committee will consider the recommendation of the Superior Courts Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association concerning panel membership, if one is solicited and available.
 - g. The Committee may also develop and promulgate additional criteria for appointment to the panel.
6. A panel member shall be evaluated by the Committee from time to time to determine whether he or she should continue on the panel. In making such evaluation, the Committee should consider the following factors:
- a. Has the panel member interviewed the minor, prepared, and filed his or her report in a prompt and timely manner?
 - b. Do the panel member's reports, testimony, and work reflect appropriate professional ability and competence?
 - c. Has the panel member spent a minimum of one hour with each minor?
 - d. Has the panel member interviewed a detained minor at the detention facility when required?
 - e. Has the panel member been available to testify in court and, when required, to do so, been prompt in arriving at the designated time?
 - f. Has the panel member followed the juvenile court fee schedule when requesting payment for services rendered?
7. Panel members serve at the pleasure of the court and may be removed from the panel at any time without the court having to show cause for such removal.
8. Any psychiatrist or psychologist who wishes to be appointed to the panel should contact the 730 Expert Panel Judicial Secretary at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse, 201 Centre Plaza Drive, Room 400, Monterey Park, CA 91754 or by telephone at (323) 307-8157.