



# AB 505: Background and Key Changes

January 2024



# Overview

1. Introduction to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
2. AB 505 Impacts: Ombudsperson Division of OYCR
3. AB 505 Impacts: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Changes
4. AB 505 : Additional Updates
5. Questions



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# Vision

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We envision a Healthy California that enables all youth to be responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities.

# Mission

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Promote trauma-responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood.



Office of Youth and  
Community Restoration

# AB 505 : Ombudsperson Authorities

# Ombudsperson

## What is the OYCR Ombudsperson?

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An impartial person whose job it is to help resolve complaints about violations of youth rights and harmful conditions or practices in California's juvenile justice facilities

### The Ombudsperson will:

- Receive, investigate, and refer complaints, at their discretion
- Maintain confidentiality
- Resolve complaints where possible in collaboration with facilities and staff
- Help youth, families, and other stakeholders understand youth rights.
- Provide regular reports to the Legislature

### The Ombudsperson cannot:

- Give legal advice or change court orders.
- Investigate complaints about attorneys or judges.



# The Youth Bill of Rights

Together with a diverse group of stakeholders, OYCR developed a Youth Bill of Rights publication to inform youth of their rights.

These publications will be free and distributed to counties to display. They must be used to orient youth to the rights and to be posted in classrooms, living units, and visitation areas.

## YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS



In California, we have rules to protect the rights of young people who are in a juvenile hall, camp or on the laws that exist. Below is a list of the rights:



### Discipline

- **No one is allowed to take away any of the following things from you as a form of discipline or punishment: food; contact with your parents, family, or attorney; sleep; exercise; education; bedding; clean clothes; religious services; a daily shower; clean water; a toilet; grooming products; medical care; reading materials; and sending or getting mail.**
- You have the right to not be locked in a room as a punishment.
- You have the right to be given the rules on discipline. You must be given these rules in writing.
- If someone accuses you of something, you have the right to know what it is, to be heard, to defend yourself by sharing evidence or testimony, and to appeal the discipline decisions.
- You may want to contact your attorney to get their help to defend yourself and appeal discipline decisions.

### Phone, Mail, & Visits

- You have the right to make at least two free phone calls within an hour of arrival at a juvenile facility after an arrest.
- You have the right to frequent and continuing contact with your parents, brothers and sisters, your children, and other relatives.
- You have the right to talk to them on the phone, have them visit you, or send them letters. You may be given access to a computer to connect with your family, but it shouldn't replace seeing them in person.
- You may be allowed to visit other family members and supportive adults with approval from the Facility Administrator.
- Mail that you send or get from family, friends, your children, and other supportive adults can be opened to search for contraband and can only be read by staff when they have a good reason to believe that the letter or mail could risk the safety and security of the facility, other youth, or the public.

### Confidential Contacts

- You have the right to contact your attorney, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, and certain people who work for the government about your rights being violated and what is happening inside the facility. You cannot be punished for contacting them.
- You have the right to make private phone calls, send and receive private mail, and have private visits with your attorney, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, court personnel, people who give you legal services, and people who hold a public office.
- You have the right to have these visits and letters be confidential, which means that the Probation Department is not allowed to be listening or recording these visits or looking at or reading mail or letters from these people. The Probation Department can authorize certain staff to open mail from these people only to search for contraband and this must be done with you there.

### Education

- You have the right to a quality education that follows the state law and standards, and prepares you for high school graduation, college, and a job.
- You have the right to attend the classes for your grade level and job training.
- You have the right to have access to college, career, and job training programs.
- You have the right to have access to a computer and the internet for your school, career, or job training program.
- You have the right to get educational services even if you are on disciplinary or medical status.
- You have the right to have access to information about the education options that are available to you.

### Treated equally

- You have the right to be treated fairly and have equal access to all available services including housing, care, treatment, and benefits.
- You should not be treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, language, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental or physical disability, immigration, or HIV status.

### Religion and Spiritual

- You have the right to practice your religion or spiritual beliefs including religious services and activities.
- You have the right to refuse to take part in religious services or activities.

### No abuse

- **You should tell your attorney, a trusted adult, a staff person, or your probation officer if you are being abused.** You can also call the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson at 1-844-402-1880.
- **You have the right to not be abused in any way.** This includes physical, sexual, emotional, or any other abuse. No one is allowed to punish you by hitting you.

### WHAT IS AN OMBUDSPERSON?

A person whose job it is to help you if you are in a juvenile justice facility in California and need help to solve problems about how you are being treated.

The Ombudsperson is an independent problem-solver responsible for investigating complaints and attempting to resolve them for the people involved. As a youth in a juvenile justice facility, you have the right to ask questions or file a complaint with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson. You can file a complaint if your rights have been violated or ignored or you are concerned about the condition of the facility you are in. You cannot be punished or threatened for making a complaint. If you are not sure how we can help, please call, email, or write to us.

### WHO TO CALL ABOUT MY RIGHTS:

If you think your rights are being violated or have concerns with the juvenile justice facility you are in, you have the right to privately contact the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson. You cannot be punished or retaliated against for making a complaint.

📞 **Helpline:** (844) 402-1880

✉️ **Email:** OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov

🌐 **Website:** www.chhs.ca.gov/oycr

📍 **Address:** OYCR Ombudsperson  
1215 O Street, MS-08  
Sacramento, CA 95814

# AB 505 : Changes to Ombudsperson Authorities

1. Access to records
2. Access to youth and witnesses
3. Access to facilities
4. Clarifications
5. Mandatory annual site visits



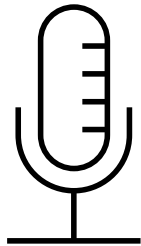
# AB 505: Access to youth, witnesses, and facilities

Welf. & Inst. Code § § 827(a)(1)(U), 2200(d)(4), (5), (7)

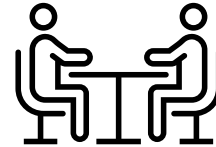
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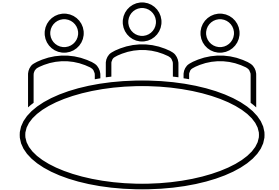
Access to youth and facilities at all times (no notice required)



Take notes, audio or video recording, or photographs



Interview witnesses (including volunteers)

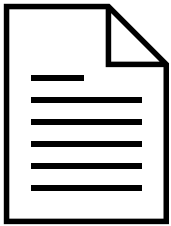


Interview sworn probation personnel (consistent with law, probation dept. policies, and collective bargaining agreements)

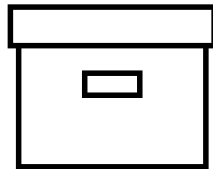
# AB 505: Access to records

Welf. & Inst. Code § § 827(a)(1)(U), 2200(d)(4), (5), (7)

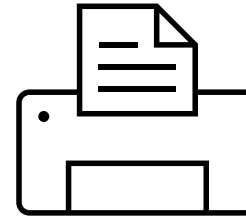
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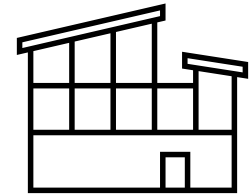
Access to juvenile case  
file (Welf. & Inst. Code §  
827)



Access to records at all  
times (no notice  
required)



Review, receive, and  
make copies of records

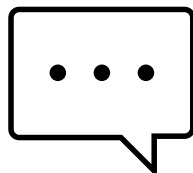
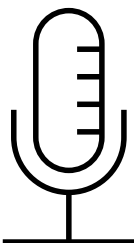
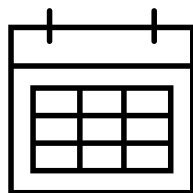
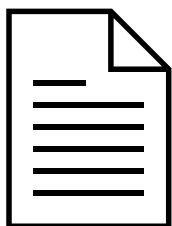


Records include juvenile  
facility records (excluding  
confidential personnel  
records)

# What is a “record”?<sup>1</sup>

Welf. & Inst. Code § 2200(d)(8)

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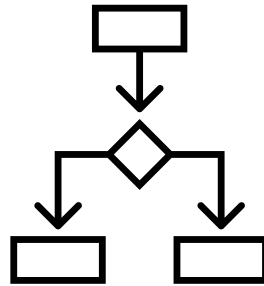
1. Documents
2. Papers
3. Memoranda
4. Logs
5. Reports
6. Letters
7. Calendars
8. Schedules
9. Notes
10. Files
11. Drawings
12. Electronic content (e.g. videos, photos, blogs, texts, emails)

<sup>1</sup>Records do not include material that is protected by privilege.

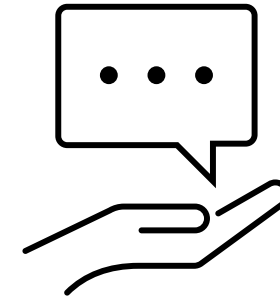
# AB 505: Clarifications

Welf. & Inst. Code § 2200.2(e), (f)(3)

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The ombudsperson may recommend changes to improve services or to correct systemic issues.



The ombudsperson shall advise all complainants that retaliation is not permitted and constitutes the basis for filing a subsequent complaint.

# Ombudsperson site visits

## Welf. & Inst. Code § 2200(d)(9)

Ombudsperson staff shall conduct a site visit to every juvenile facility and premises within the control of a county or local agency, or a contractor with a county or local agency, no less frequently than once per year.





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# AB 505 : Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG)



# AB 505 : Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Updates

1. The plan should be updated annually and must be approved by a majority of the subcommittee.
2. The subcommittee, which may decide to have a cochair in addition to the probation chief, shall convene no less frequently than twice per year to consider and review the plan.
3. The subcommittee may decide to have a cochair in addition to the probation chief, with a selection process determined by the subcommittee.
4. Plans must be developed with the review and participation of subcommittee community members.
5. Counties must report progress made on actions established in the previous year's JJRBG county plan.
6. The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) will review the plan to ensure it contains all required elements, follows the planning process, and may return it to the county for necessary revisions or completion before final acceptance. Any requests for revisions does not impact the allocation of the JJRBG funds.

# Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

## What is the JJRBG County Plan?

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Funding has been allocated for counties to develop their approaches to provide appropriate restorative and supervision services for youth that otherwise could have been cared for in DJJ.

### The JJRBG County Plan provides information in the following areas:

- Data on youth who have committed serious offenses (707(b))
- Facilities where they will be housed
- Retaining youth in juvenile system
- Data and outcomes of block grant

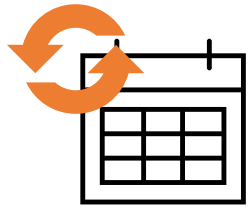
### Outlines how funds address the following needs :

- Mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs.
- Healthy adolescent development.
- Family engagement.
- Reentry (employment, housing, and continuing education).
- Involvement of nongovernmental or community-based providers.

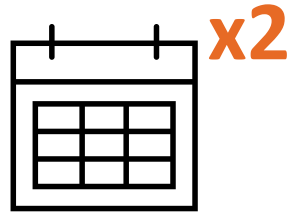
# AB 505: Changes to Planning Process

Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b), (c), (e)

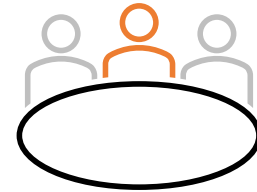
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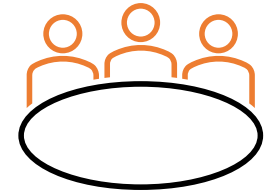
The plan must be updated annually.



The subcommittee shall convene no less frequently than twice per year to consider the plan.



Subcommittee may decide to have a cochair, in addition to the probation chief, using a selection process determined by the subcommittee.



Plan must be approved by a majority of the subcommittee.

# AB 505: Increased Involvement of Subcommittee Community Members

Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b), (c)

The plan must be developed with the review and participation of subcommittee **community members**.

Each subcommittee must continue to have at least three community members who are defined as “individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system.”



# AB 505: New JJRBG Plan Element

**Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(8)**

Progress on implementation and development of innovative solutions to programs and services for youth will be included in the plan.



# AB 505: OYCR Plan Review

## Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(f)

As plans are submitted by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, OYCR will review the plan to ensure that the plan contains all elements and **follows the planning process** and may return the plan to the county for revision as necessary **or to complete the required planning process** prior to final acceptance of the plan.

The planning process includes the new planning changes such as the requirement that subcommittee meets twice a year, involvement of community members in developing and reviewing the plan, plan approval by a majority of the subcommittee.

**OYCR's requests for revisions will not impact the allocation of funds.**







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# AB 505 : Additional Updates

# AB 505: Judicial Inspections

Welf. & Inst. Code § 209(a)

Judges must now annually inspect local **probation camps, ranches, and county SYTFs.**





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# Questions?



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## Contact OYCR

Office of Youth and Community  
Restoration

[OYCR@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCR@chhs.ca.gov)

Ombudsperson Division

[OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov)

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# Thank you