

Children's Waiting Room Fund Balance Cap Adjustments

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Hon. Mark A. Juhas, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Ms. Rebecca J. Fleming, Chief Executive Officer, Superior Court of
Santa Clara County

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Children's Waiting Rooms

- Provide safe, supervised area for children
- Allow parents/guardians to conduct court business
- Reduce barriers to court participation
- Support access to justice for families



Government Code Section 70640

- Statute authorizes revenues from filing fees
- Revenue used to establish/operate rooms
- Costs: staff, rent, utilities, furnishings, and supplies
- 17 courts receive filing fee distributions

Judicial Council Policy

- Establishes fund balance cap
- Requires biennial reporting (every odd year)
- Requires return of funds over cap
- Allows courts to request cap increase

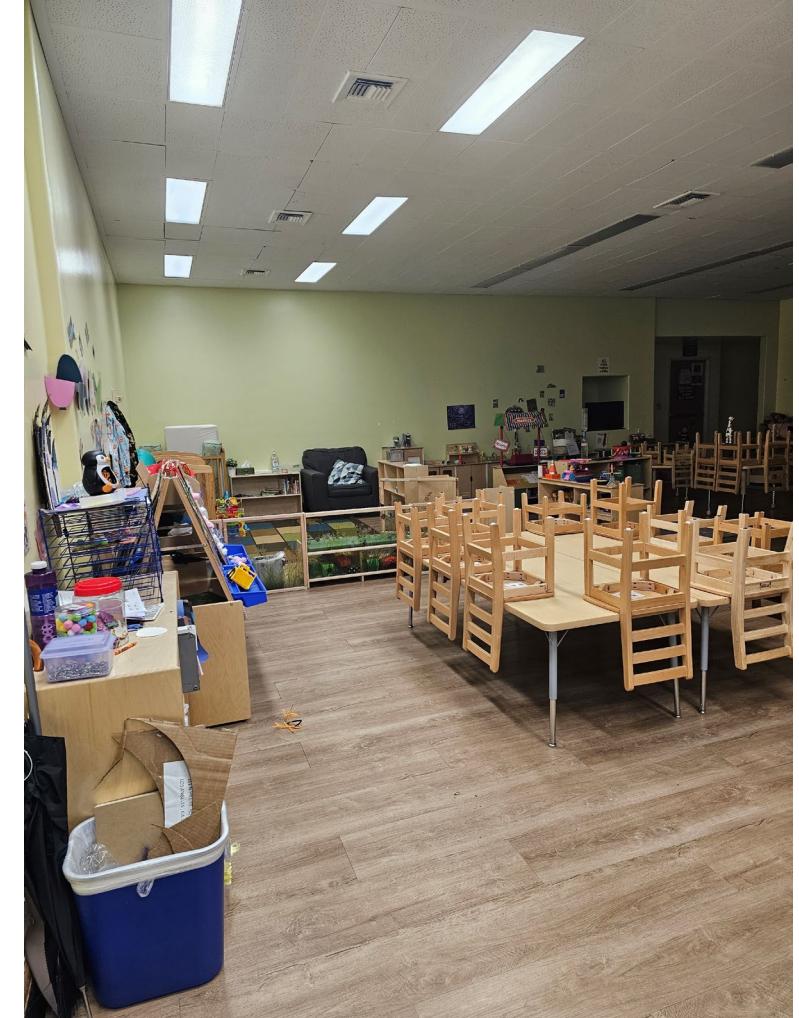
Judicial Officer Perspective

- Enhances children's safety
- Promotes access to justice
- Upholds core responsibilities of justice system

Superior Court of Los Angeles County



Children's Waiting Room



Children's Waiting Room

Superior Court of San Francisco County



Children's Waiting Rooms

**Superior Court of
Sacramento County**



**Superior Court of
San Mateo County**





Superior Court of Santa Clara County New Children's Waiting Room

Court Administrator Perspective

- Improves court efficiency
- Minimizes distractions
- Fosters greater trust and cooperation
- Models community responsibility

Recommendations

- Reduce \$1.7 million for 9 courts
- Funds over cap returned to Trial Court Trust Fund
- Increase cap \$5.2 million for 5 courts

Questions?