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Judicial Council of California

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Title

Juvenile Law | 2023-24 Allocations for Dependency Counsel Collections Program and Expected Unspent Program Funding (Action Required)

Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends two redistributions of funding for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel for fiscal year (FY) 2023-24. Under the Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program, courts collect reimbursements from parents and other responsible persons liable for the cost of dependency-related legal services to the extent that those persons are able to pay. The committee recommends that the Judicial Council allocate the FY 2022-23 statutorily restricted funds to the trial courts, calculated according to the methodology adopted by the council in 2012. The committee also recommends that the council reallocate unspent dependency counsel funding from courts that have identified funds they do not intend on spending to courts that are not fully funded to their need.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective March 15, 2024:

1. Allocate Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program funds of $349,733 remitted in FY 2022-23; and

2. Allocate FY 2023-24 estimated unspent dependency counsel funding of $970,111 from courts that have identified funds they do not intend on spending to courts that are not fully funded to their need.