



Judicial Council of California

Please visit
courts website:
courts.ca.gov
to view live meeting on
April 24, 2026.

Subject Text

Meeting materials
are available through

File #: 17-142, **Version:** 1

Title

Criminal Procedure: Use of Risk/Needs Assessments at Sentencing (Action Required)

Summary

The Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommends approval of a new standard of judicial administration. The new standard provides guidance to judges on the appropriate uses of the results of risk/needs assessments at criminal sentencing.

Recommendation

The Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve new standard 4.35 of the California Standards of Judicial Administration, effective January 1, 2018, to:

1. State the purposes for using the results of risk/needs assessments at sentencing;
2. Identify proper and improper uses of the results of risk/needs assessments at sentencing;
3. Recommend the validation of risk/needs assessment instruments;
4. Provide guidance on the use of the results of a risk/needs assessment in evaluating a defendant's amenability to or suitability for supervision; and
5. Recommend education on risk/needs assessments.