

County Notice of Proposed Operation and Description of Secure Youth Treatment Facility

Submit this form to your assigned BSCC Field Representative

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 875, subdivision (g)(4) provides:

A county proposing to establish a secure youth treatment facility for wards described in subdivision (a)ⁱ shall notify the Board of State and Community Corrections of the operation of the facility and shall submit a description of the facility to the board in a format designated by the board.

Submission of this form serves as notice to the BSCC of the proposed operation and description of a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

Date:	March 9, 2023
County:	County of Tulare
Facility Name:	Juvenile Detention Facility
Facility Address:	11200 Ave. 368, Visalia CA 93291
Intended Date of Operation:	March 9, 2023
Contact Person:	Mike Santos, Division Manager
Contact Person E-Mail:	MSantos@tularecounty.ca.gov

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

Fill in information on form or attach a separate document. If an operational program statement or other document addresses the required information, that document may be submitted as notice of proposed operation.

Identify each facility that will operate as a SYTF.

Operating Agency (e.g., Probation Dept.)	Facility Name & Address	Facility Type (Juvenile Hall/Camp)	# of SYTF Beds
Probation Department	JDF, 11200 Ave. 368, Visalia CA	Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)	21

If existing beds will be converted to SYTF beds, please indicate by checking the box:

Describe the juvenile population to be served by each SYTF facility in the county by factors including offense, age, gender and any special programming, such as sex offender or mental health treatment to which the facility may be dedicated.	Thirty of the 33 youth sent to DJJ are eligible to be returned to the custody of Tulare County Probation. All, or 100%, are male, with an average age of 19. The breakdown of offenses of the 30 that may return to Tulare County include 33% homicide, attempted homicide, and manslaughter; 30% assault related; 30% robbery, carjacking, and sex offenses; and 6% shooting at an inhabited dwelling or vehicle and conspiracy to commit a crime. Intensive supervision and treatment services will be commensurable with the juvenile population served at the SYTF facility.
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TO THE EXTENT KNOWN, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

<p>Describe the proposed or actual population capacity of the SYTF (ADP and maximum as applicable).</p> <p>If the county proposes or plans to accept commitments of SYTF youth from another county or counties, describe the capacity of the SYTF that will be dedicated or available to out-of-county commitments.</p>	<p>The SYTF has a maximum operating capacity of 21. The realigned population will be designated to a unit that is part of a secure detention facility with an operating capacity of 210.</p>
<p>If the SYTF is a unit of a facility that also houses detained or committed youth other than Section 875 committed wards, indicate which unit or part of the facility will be utilized as a SYTF.</p> <p>Indicate whether you intend to separate SYTF from non-SYTF youth in the facility, and if they will be separated, describe how they will be separately housed and programmed.</p>	<p>Yes, the SYTF is a unit of the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) that will house both the realigned population and youth detained or committed other than as Section 875 committed wards. The SYTF population will be housed separately in a distinct pod (Pod 5) of the JDF that is exclusively for housing only the SYTF population. However, programming of SYTF youth may not necessarily be separate from non-SYTF youth. JDF is a secure residential institution that has five (5) distinct pods and an operating capacity of 210.</p>
<p>Describe how the SYTF will be secure as required by WIC § 875 including any proposed modifications to achieve security.</p>	<p>To address the security needs of the realigned population, infrastructure modifications at the SYTF will be made. Specifically, a perimeter fence and security cameras will be installed at the facility where the realigned population will be housed to ensure appropriate security and monitoring measures are in place. In addition, Probation Correction Officers who have been trained in de-escalation, crisis intervention, and other techniques will supervise youth in the facility.</p>
<p>Describe how the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the youth serving baseline and modified baseline terms under WIC § 875.</p>	<p>Tulare County will contract with Phoenix House to provide substance abuse, mental health, and behavioral health services specifically developed for Tulare County Probation and the realigned population. Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), Tulare County Probation, and Phoenix House will work collaboratively to ensure educational needs are met. Additionally, any psychological medication management and mental health services will be overseen by appropriately licensed and contracted providers.</p>
<p>Describe the staffing proposed for the SYTF, including staffing ratios.</p>	<p>Staffing levels will adhere to the State's mandates with respect to staffing ratios. A combination of Probation Officers (PO), Probation Correctional Officers (PCO), Institutional Supervisors (IS), and Detention Service Officers (DSO) are onsite 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure the safety and security of youth and staff.</p>
<p>If the county will use or proposes to establish or utilize a less restrictive program to which SYTF-committed youth may be transferred by the juvenile court, describe the less restrictive program including whether it is operated by a community service provider.</p>	<p>The Probation Department embraces strategies designed to mitigate the need of long-term commitment and offers youth many lower-level interventions programs and services that address decision-making and coping skills when dealing with life's challenges. Any realigned youth returned to the custody of Tulare County Probation will have their needs assessed to determine the appropriate level and type of services to provide. The level and program services provided will be reassessed on a basis as deemed necessary.</p>

ⁱ Welfare and Institutions Code section 875, subdivision (a), provides:

- (a) In addition to the types of treatment specified in Sections 727 and 730, commencing July 1, 2021, the court may order that a ward who is 14 years of age or older, be committed to a secure youth treatment facility for a period of confinement described in subdivision (b) if the ward meets the following criteria:
- (1) The juvenile is adjudicated and found to be a ward of the court based on an offense listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707.
 - (2) The adjudication described in paragraph (1) is the most recent offense for which the juvenile has been adjudicated.
 - (3) The court has made a finding on the record that a less restrictive, alternative disposition for the ward is unsuitable. In determining this, the court shall consider all relevant and material evidence, including the recommendations of counsel, the probation department, and any other agency or individual designated by the court to advise on the appropriate disposition of the case. The court shall additionally make its determination based on all of the following criteria:
 - (A) The severity of the offense or offenses for which the ward has been most recently adjudicated, including the ward's role in the offense, the ward's behavior, and harm done to victims.
 - (B) The ward's previous delinquent history, including the adequacy and success of previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the ward.
 - (C) Whether the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided in a secure youth treatment facility is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the ward.
 - (D) Whether the goals of rehabilitation and community safety can be met by assigning the ward to an alternative, less restrictive disposition that is available to the court.
 - (E) The ward's age, developmental maturity, mental and emotional health, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and any disabilities or special needs affecting the safety or suitability of committing the ward to a term of confinement in a secure youth treatment facility.