

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CLARA COUNTY
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION
STANDING ORDER

FILED
JUN 24 2021

Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY  DEPUTY

E. CASTILLO

**AUTHORIZATION FOR VERA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE TO
CONDUCT A FILE REVIEW FOR DATA COLLECTION FOR THE
CAMPAIGN TO END THE INCARCERATION OF GIRLS IN SANTA CLARA
COUNTY FROM SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT,
JUVENILE DIVISION
(Extended)**

Over the past decade, reform efforts to divert young people charged with low-level offenses have dramatically driven down the country's juvenile justice population. But, girls have been overlooked in these efforts. The number of girls who are incarcerated has decreased more slowly than the number of boys, and girls now comprise more of the juvenile justice population than ever before, disproportionately harming girls of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender non-conforming (LGB/TGNC) youth. Notably, over 80 percent of incarcerated girls are survivors of sexual violence and are often arrested for circumstances directly related to their abuse, which further exacerbates this trauma and harm.

In 2017 the Vera Institute of Justice led the effort to address these inequities by launching the Task Force on Ending Girls' Incarceration in New York City that aims to develop a comprehensive plan to end girls' incarceration in the five boroughs. Now, Vera is expanding this vital reform nationally to five local and state jurisdictions: Maine, Hawaii, North Dakota, Santa Clara County (California), and the City of Philadelphia. As part of the Initiative to End Girls' Incarceration, these jurisdictions will receive guidance from Vera's team to develop and implement a strategic plan to eliminate confinement of girls through improved policy, practice, and programmatic approaches.

This order allows the Vera Institute for Justice to conduct an on-site file review of Juvenile Justice Court files in order to collect aggregate data of the young women and girls who have come into contact with the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice system. The purpose of this file review will be to collect qualitative data detailing the girls' housing needs and how often lack of housing was a reason for detention override. The data will be used to inform resource mapping, define the scope of need, and make recommendations for short-term housing in the county.

From 2018 through 2021, petitions for girls in detention from November 1, 2015 through November 15, 2021 will be specifically reviewed. The purpose of this will be to describe and predict the pathways bringing girls into court, through the system, and into

confinement. Vera will examine trends over time to examine and understand processes associated with reducing court contact and confinement for girls. At times Vera Institute will also be requesting files for the boys in order to compare data for boys and girls and identify differences that can help inform reform and planning going forward.

The case files add quantitative and qualitative details to the assessment process. The data will be used to inform the development of the strategic plan as well as establish baseline numbers for an evaluation. No identifying information will be collected. No identifying information will be published. The Standing Order allows the sharing of deidentified individual level system data from the Superior Court. All data collected by Vera from Santa Clara County will be destroyed five years from the date of this Standing Order.

So Ordered:



Judge Katherine Lucero
Supervising Judge Juvenile Justice Court

Dated: 6/24/2021