



KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Policies And Procedures

TITLE: Probation Personnel Functioning As Foster Parents			Article: 1607
APPROVED: William Dickinson, Chief Probation Officer			
EFFECTIVE: March 2012	REVIEWED: March 2018	REVISED: September 2024	UPDATED: March 2012

POLICY

When probation employees provide foster parent services for youth who are Wards of the Court, it creates the appearance of a conflict of interest related to the Probation Department's ability to objectively monitor the placement. One must question whether the probation employee, due to the uniqueness of his/her relationship to the Court, could exercise the same discretion in dealing with technical violations of Court Orders as do non-probation foster parents.

It is the policy of the Kern County Probation Department that, in all except the most unusual circumstances, probation personnel will not be utilized as foster parents for youth who are under the supervision of the Probation Department.

Guidelines

1. If any person employed by the Probation Department in any capacity wishes to function as a foster parent, they should go through the normal licensing procedure with the Department of Human Services.
2. If any person employed by the Probation Department wishes to accept foster children into their home, they should accept only those children placed by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, or any agency other than the Probation Department.
3. When it is felt that unusual circumstances exist and the Probation Officer responsible for recommending placement is desirous of placing a Juvenile Court Ward in the home of a probation employee, the responsible Probation Officer must obtain the following approvals before submitting a recommendation to Juvenile Court:
 - a. **The Division Director and the Deputy Chief Probation Officer**
 - b. **The Chief Probation Officer**
4. It is not the Probation Department's intent to disrupt the lives of young people. Therefore, this policy does not pertain to children placed with probation personnel prior to the adoption of this policy.