



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Jim Goodwin, President
- Molly Rogers, President Elect
- Debra Patterson, Treasurer

OJDDA
305 NE 3rd St.
Prineville, Or. 97754

OJDDA Supports Senate Bill 422

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association (OJDDA) supports eliminating fees and court costs associated with juvenile delinquency matters, removing parental support obligation for youth in state custody, and the right to court-appointed counsel at state expense regardless of financial circumstances.

The juvenile justice system focuses on achieving community safety and accountability by promoting positive youth development. Any condition of probation, such as the payment of fees, which does not contribute to youth success should not be ordered.

Charging justice-involved youth and their families' fees is antithetical to the goal of achieving positive youth development. Fees distract and burden youth without influencing positive behavior change or helping youth become productive members of the community.

The practice of imposing fees and court costs places a particularly heavy burden on those who are poor. Justice-involved youth disproportionately come from families living at or below the poverty level, and this burden creates additional obstacles to long-term success. Moreover, the practice of charging fees worsens racial and economic disparities in the juvenile court system, adding further trauma and stress to marginalized communities.

The financial burden that fees create for many adjudicated youth also poses a significant barrier to successful completion of probation supervision. Failure to pay fees can result in a violation of probation, extension of supervision, or even a revocation, drawing youth deeper into the juvenile justice system.

Fees are not effective at changing youth behavior or teaching responsibility, nor do they serve as an effective accountability mechanism. Even the most compliant probationer cannot pay money that they do not have.

OJDDA urges your support for Senate Bill 422.

For Further Information Contact

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