



**Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility
2016-2017
Madera County Grand Jury
Final Report 1617-07**

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Introduction:

In Madera County, when a youth breaks the law, she/he may be placed in a restrictive living environment to protect citizens and influence the youth to conform to society's rules. Until the age of 18, the youth of Madera County who fall into this situation could be made Wards of the Court (Wards) and be placed in Madera County's Juvenile Detention Facility.

On February 7, 2017, the Madera County Grand Jury visited the Juvenile Detention Facility located at 28219 Avenue 14, Madera. After being greeted and a brief discussion, senior staff escorted the Grand Jury on a tour. The tour included observing the interior and exterior of the facility. Access was provided to all requested locations.

Facts:

1. Safety of the Wards and staff is important.
2. In addition to enforcing policies and procedures, some staff take a personal interest in the welfare of the Wards.
3. Several Wards stated that they regarded some staff as role models.
4. High school diploma/GED education programs are provided, and participation is mandatory.
5. The facility was well taken care of; no serious deficiencies of property or equipment were observed.
6. The Wards perform some of the upkeep of the property and grounds.
7. The County Chief Probation Officer is the Director of the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Findings:

1. Some staff go beyond the basic requirements of their job responsibilities as evidenced by their caring personal interactions with the Wards.
2. The facility is well run.

Recommendations:

The Madera County Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The staff of the Juvenile Detention Facility be commended for their dedication to the well being of the Wards.
2. Those staff members who are creating a very positive influence on the Wards be recognized for their outstanding performance.

Respondents:

Madera County Board of Supervisors
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Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Chief Probation Officer
209 W Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Information only:

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