

Penal Institutions in Madera County

Summary: Mandated by California Penal Code 919(b), the Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) conducts an inquiry into the conditions and management of the detention facilities within the county. Sections 919(a), 925, and 925(a) authorize the MCGJ to investigate county and city jails and other detention facilities within the county. Inspections are intended to highlight efficiencies, note any deficiencies, and ensure that the incarcerated are treated in an appropriate manner. The MCGJ inspected facilities, observed the programs in action, and spoke with several of those in custody and institutional staff.

Background: As required by the California State Penal Codes 919(a), 919(b), 925(a), and 925(b) the Grand Jury in each county in California must conduct a Detention Facility Inspection. The inspections in Madera County were conducted at the Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility, the Madera County Department of Corrections (Jail), Valley State Prison (VSP), and the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF).

Under Proposition 57, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) motivates inmates to take responsibility for their own rehabilitation with credit-earning opportunities for sustained good behavior as well as prison programs and activity participation. An early release is considered for nonviolent offenders who have served the full-term sentence for their primary offense and have demonstrated their release to the community would not pose an unreasonable risk.

Methodology:

Referenced the following documentation:

1. Jail Inspection Handbook for Grand Jurors provided by the California Board of Community and State Corrections (BCSC).
2. Reviewed Detention Facility Inspection forms provided by the respective institutions.
3. Previous Grand Jury Detention Inspection reports.
4. Prepared questions relevant to each facility.
5. Online resources
6. Press releases