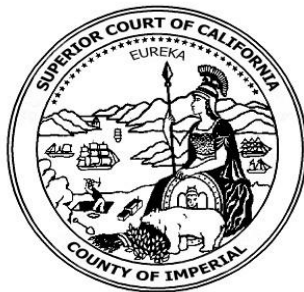


NEWS RELEASE



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

Dedication Ceremony for the Reimagined Juvenile Department

Friday, October 30, 2026

El Centro, CA – On October 30, 2026, the Imperial County Superior Court will dedicate its redesigned Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency Department at the El Centro Historic Courthouse. Presiding Judge Monica Lepe-Negrete will deliver opening remarks, followed by Assistant Presiding Judge Michael Domenzain and Immediate Past Presiding Judge Marco D. Núñez.

The redesigned department reflects the Court's continuing commitment to public safety, accountability, and the fair and effective administration of juvenile justice. The improvements establish a more secure, coordinated, and accessible environment for minors, families, victims, court personnel, and justice partners, while ensuring that proceedings are conducted with dignity and respect for the rights of all parties.

The enhanced facilities bring together judicial and support functions to improve courtroom operations, access to legal representation, and coordination among attorneys, probation officers, social service agencies, treatment professionals, and other justice partners. This collaborative approach promotes appropriate supervision, timely intervention, and informed judicial decision-making while maintaining the safeguards necessary to protect both individual rights and community safety.

In delinquency matters, the redesigned department supports a balanced approach that emphasizes accountability for unlawful conduct, protection of the public, and opportunities for rehabilitation aimed at reducing repeat offenses. In dependency matters, the improvements provide a more supportive environment for children and families navigating sensitive proceedings, while prioritizing the safety and welfare of minors.

Through these improvements, the Imperial County Superior Court reaffirms its commitment to administering justice with fairness, integrity, and impartiality, while strengthening public confidence in the juvenile justice system and promoting the safety and well-being of the community.