



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KERN

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Tamarah Harber-Pickens

Superior Court of California
County of Kern
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-4934

December 14, 2020

Mr. Daniel Trautfield
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

*Sent via e-mail
(dtrautfield@gmail.com)*

Re: Requests for Public Access to Judicial Administrative Records
Pursuant to Rule of Court 10.500

Dear Mr. Trautfield,

The Court is in receipt of your records request dated November 23, 2020. As indicated in our prior letter, the Court is committed to providing access to judicial administrative records and honoring the public's right of access to nondeliberative and nonadjudicative court records and budget and management information relating to the administration of the courts. Typically, such information pertains to how the court is administered, including information about how the courts are run, at what cost, pay and benefits. See CRC Rule 10.500(e)(2). Adjudicative records, such as those prepared for, filed for, or used in a court proceeding or in judicial deliberations, are not subject to disclosure under California Government Code, § 68106.2(g) or CRC Rule 10.500.

You are seeking criminal conviction case records, which are considered adjudicative records. Adjudicative records, such as those prepared for, filed for, or used in a court proceeding or in judicial deliberations, are not subject to disclosure under California Government Code, § 68106.2(g) or CRC Rule 10.500. California case law has established that, in general, subject to specific statutory exceptions, case records that accurately and officially reflect the work of the court are public records open to inspection. (Craemer v. Superior Court (1968) 265 Cal.App.2d 216, 222, 71 Cal.Rptr. 193 [there is a presumption of accessibility to judicial records in criminal cases that allows a trial court limited authority to preclude such access]; compare Estate of Hearst (1977) 67 Cal.App.3d 777, 785, 136 Cal.Rptr. 821 [in a civil case, the trial court may preclude public access to judicial records "under exceptional circumstances and on a showing of good cause"].) Therefore, you are entitled to inspect individual case files. CRC Rule 2.400(a) states that all papers in the court files may be inspected by the public in the office of the clerk. CRC Rule 2.550(a) says that unless confidential or sealed by

law, all court records are presumed open.

Originally we indicated that because the aggregate information you requested was not currently compiled by the Court, we possessed no records that would be responsive to your request under California Rules of Court (CRC), Rule 10.500(e)(1)(B). As we indicated in our prior communication, Kern County Superior Court uses the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), a criminal case processing system that was developed in the mid-1980s. It should be noted that while CJIS was developed by a consortium of state courts, including Monterey, San Joaquin, and Marin Counties, Kern County Superior Court is the only court that continues to use the CJIS system, in part because its county criminal justice partners have continued to support the system. Other courts have migrated to newer case processing systems and Kern County Superior Court will be migrating to a new program in the near future.

However, since our reply, we had a programmer develop a query and he was able to produce the attached information. I hope this will suffice, as it is the best that we can do given the parameters of our current criminal justice record system.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Harber-Pickens', written over a horizontal line.

Tamarah Harber-Pickens
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California, County of Kern

xc: Ms. Gina Fisher, Case Management System Manager
Ms. Carla Ortega, Managing Attorney
Ms. Kristin Williams, Public Affairs Officer