

WHAT IS HOMELESS COURT?

The Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin proudly held its first session of Homeless Court in January of 2006.

The Homeless Court was developed with the goal of assisting the homeless of San Joaquin County clear up:

- minor traffic and morals offenses
- bench warrants and failures to appear

without the threat of incarceration and fines. Individuals serve their sentences with volunteer work (community service at Stockton Homeless Shelter & Thrift, St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services, or the Emergency FoodBank) and participation in programs (AA, Mental Health, etc.) as set up by their shelter case workers.

Additionally, Homeless Court is held at St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services, which is a safe and familiar environment for this court population. Homeless court is held the last Friday of the month from 3:00-5:00 pm. Individuals can sign-up for Homeless Court at:

- Any Homeless Shelter in San Joaquin County
- Veteran's Administration or
- Women's Center



WHY IS HOMELESS COURT NEEDED?

Homeless Court is needed for several reasons:

1. This population is not making it to their court appearances.
2. This specialty court allows these individuals to clear their minor offenses, failures to appear, warrants. This in turn permits these court users to become more employable, and possibly qualify for public assistance.
3. They do not have to "hide" from the law anymore.
4. These individuals have other more pressing issues in their lives (supporting their children, trying to stay safe, getting food, etc.), which take priority over clearing up their court matters.
5. Homeless individuals often do not have transportation and cannot get to court.
6. The court can clear up the backlog of cases that belong to this population.

HOW DOES HOMELESS COURT WORK?

1. Homeless Shelters sign up clients (noting their names, dates of birth, and if an interpreter is needed)
2. The information is forwarded to the court which runs all cases, bench warrants, etc. and prepares the court calendar.
3. The District Attorney and Public Defender's Offices plea-bargain the clients' cases prior to court.
4. Shelter case workers and Homeless agencies prepare information for court regarding each individual's progress and his/her case plan.
5. Cases are typically resolved with one appearance, with credit being given for community service and time spent in programs in lieu of jail and fines.



HOMELESS COURT COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

San Joaquin County Superior Court

Sandi May, Court Manager
Diana Barroga, Court Clerk
Juvenile Justice Center
535 W. Mathews Road
French Camp, CA 95231
(209)468-4287 or 468-5042

Public Defender's Office

James Larson, Public Defender
Jennifer Perkins, Deputy Public Defender
Public Defender's Office
102 S. San Joaquin St. Room 1
Stockton, CA 95201-9030
(209)468-2730

District Attorney's Office

Mary D. Aguirre, Supervising District Attorney
Ed Busittil, Assistant District Attorney
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202
Stockton, CA 95202
(209)468-2400

City Attorney's Office

DeAnna Solina, Deputy City Attorney
Tammy Hunt, Legal Secretary
City Hall- 425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209)937-8333

Stockton Shelter for the Homeless

John Reynolds, Executive Director
P.O. Box 4803
Stockton, CA 95204
(209)465-3612

St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services

Edward Figueroa, Executive Director
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203
(209)467-0703

University of the Pacific

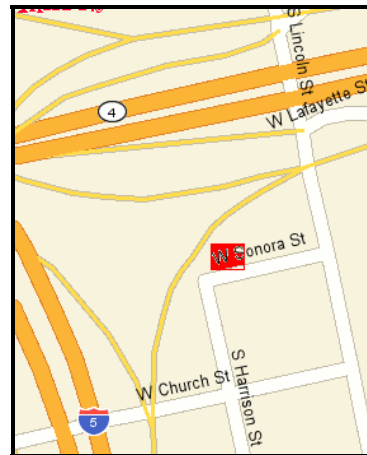
Professor John Phillips
and UOP interns
(209)946-2930

Veterans Administration

Ron Green, Director
105 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95201
(209)468-2917

2008 HOMELESS COURT SCHEDULE

3:00-5:00 p.m. @
St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services
545 W. Sonora St., Stockton, CA 95203



January 5, 2008

February 29, 2008

March 28, 2008

April 25, 2008

May 30, 2008

June 27, 2008

July 25, 2008

August 29, 2008

September 26, 2008

October 31, 2008

November 21, 2008
(Due to Thanksgiving Holiday)

December 19, 2008
(Due to Christmas Holiday)

SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN JOAQUIN



COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS

*Homeless Court is held at
St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203*

*Main Courthouse
222 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202*