



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO
District Attorney

November 17, 2025

Juliana F. Gmur, Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commission on
State Mandates

Filed Date

November 17, 2025

Re: Comment Letter – Request to Amend Parameters and Guidelines, Custody of Minors – Child Abduction and Recovery (25-PGA-01 / CSM 4237)

Dear Ms. Gmur:

The Sacramento District Attorney's Office appreciates the opportunity to comment on the State Controller's Office request to add a Statement of Decision and make minor amendments to the Parameters and Guidelines for the Custody of Minors – Child Abduction and Recovery mandate. We support the proposed technical corrections and the addition of an interpretive Statement of Decision to improve clarity for claimants and auditors without altering the underlying reimbursement policy.

We also respectfully request that the Commission consider explicating how "Good Cause" matters under Penal Code section 278.7 should be treated within the mandate. In the ordinary course of our work under Family Code sections 3130 and 3131, our office must receive complaints, investigate, locate children and parties, and procure compliance with custody and visitation orders. During these investigations, alleged offenders often assert a "Good Cause" claim under Penal Code section 278.7. Evaluating whether the statutory criteria for that defense are met is part of the same mandated investigation and locating work that is part of the Custody of Minors – Child Abduction and Recovery mandate. Penal Code section 278.7 does not create a separate category of case; it provides an affirmative defense to prosecution under section 278.5. Accordingly, investigative activities performed while carrying out our statutory duties should continue to be recognized as reimbursable even when a potential "Good Cause" claim is considered. There is a dispute related to whether "Good Cause" cases are included under the mandate between Counties and the State Controller's Office, which is part of the subject matter of pending Incorrect Reduction claims before the Commission, and explicitly addressing this in further Parameters and Guidelines would be welcomed.

Further, to promote consistency and reduce disputes, we encourage the Commission to provide practical guidance on required source and corroborating documentation that demonstrates compliance with the Parameters and Guidelines for the Custody of Minors – Child Abduction and Recovery mandate. Clear expectations for time records, narrative descriptions of tasks, and

cross-references to case activity will help Counties document allowable work in a uniform manner. This will enhance the ability of Counties to ensure that in performing the mandate that they are compliant with the State Controller's expectations, reducing audit risk and disallowed costs, and potential Incorrect Reduction claims in the future.

Again, we further support the minor technical updates described in the request: correcting the numbering in Section V so that the court-action items remain grouped consistently and the provisions for securing appearance and returning a child are restored as standalone items; restoring the previously included reimbursable activity for District Attorney notification costs when jurisdiction is refused; and updating the historical notes to reflect prior amendments accurately. These adjustments will improve readability and continuity across versions, while leaving intact existing eligibility, caps, offsets, and non-reimbursable items.

Thank you for considering these comments. We support adoption of the technical corrections and the Statement of Decision, along with clear recognition that investigations involving asserted "Good Cause" under Penal Code section 278.7 remain part of the mandated child abduction and recovery functions, and with added guidance on documentation to ensure consistency for both claimants and reviewers.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Blazina
Assistant District Attorney
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On November 20, 2025, I served the:

- **Current Mailing List dated November 6, 2025**
- **County of Sacramento Office of the District Attorney's Comments on the Request for Parameters and Guidelines Amendment filed on November 17, 2025**

Custody of Minors - Child Abduction and Recovery, 25-PGA-01

Family Code Sections 3060 to 3064, 3130 to 3134.5, 3408, 3411, and 3421

Penal Code Sections 277, 278, and 278.5

Welfare And Institutions Code Section 11478.5

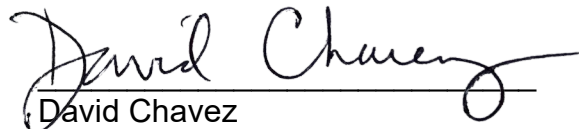
Statutes 1976, Chapter 1399; Statutes 1992, Chapter 162;

Statutes 1996, Chapter 988

State Controller's Office, Requester

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on November 20, 2025 at Sacramento, California.



David Chavez

Commission on State Mandates

980 Ninth Street, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 323-3562

COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 11/6/25

Claim Number: 25-PGA-01

Matter: Custody of Minors - Child Abduction and Recovery

Requester: State Controller

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

Adaoha Agu, *County of San Diego Auditor & Controller Department*

Projects, Revenue and Grants Accounting, 5530 Overland Avenue, Ste. 410 , MS:O-53, San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: (858) 694-2129

Adaoha.Agu@sdcounty.ca.gov

Rachelle Anema, Assistant Auditor-Controller, *County of Los Angeles*

Accounting Division, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974-8321

RANEMA@auditor.lacounty.gov

Lili Apgar, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*

Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 324-0254

lapgar@sco.ca.gov

Socorro Aquino, *State Controller's Office*

Division of Audits, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-7522

SAquino@sco.ca.gov

Aaron Avery, Legislative Representative, *California Special Districts Association*

1112 I Street Bridge, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 442-7887

Aarona@csda.net

David Bass, Vice Mayor, *City of Rocklin*

3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677

Phone: (916) 663-8504

David.Bass@rocklin.ca.us

Ginni Bella Navarre, Deputy Legislative Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8342
Ginni.Bella@lao.ca.gov

Guy Burdick, Consultant, *MGT Consulting*
2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: (916) 833-7775
gburdick@mgtconsulting.com

Allan Burdick,
7525 Myrtle Vista Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95831
Phone: (916) 203-3608
allanburdick@gmail.com

Rica Mae Cabigas, Chief Accountant, *Auditor-Controller*
Accounting Division, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-8309
rcabigas@auditor.lacounty.gov

Evelyn Calderon-Yee, Bureau Chief, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 324-5919
ECalderonYee@sco.ca.gov

Julissa Ceja Cardenas, *California State Association of Counties*
1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 327-7500
jcejacardenas@counties.org

Annette Chinn, *Cost Recovery Systems, Inc.*
705-2 East Bidwell Street, #294, Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: (916) 939-7901
achinnrcs@aol.com

Carolyn Chu, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8326
Carolyn.Chu@lao.ca.gov

Adam Cripps, Interim Finance Manager, *Town of Apple Valley*
14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307
Phone: (760) 240-7000
acripps@applevalley.org

Thomas Deak, Senior Deputy, *County of San Diego*
Office of County Counsel, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 355, San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: (619) 531-4810
Thomas.Deak@sdcounty.ca.gov

Kevin Fisher, Assistant City Attorney, *City of San Jose*
Environmental Services, 200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113
Phone: (408) 535-1987
kevin.fisher@sanjoseca.gov

Tim Flanagan, Office Coordinator, *Solano County*
Register of Voters, 678 Texas Street, Suite 2600, Fairfield, CA 94533

Phone: (707) 784-3359
Elections@solanocounty.com

Justin Garrett, Acting Chief Policy Officer, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*
1100 K Street, Ste 101, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 327-7500
jgarrett@counties.org

Juliana Gmur, Executive Director, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
juliana.gmur@csm.ca.gov

Chris Hill, Principal Program Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*
Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, 8th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
Chris.Hill@dof.ca.gov

Tiffany Hoang, Associate Accounting Analyst, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-1127
THoang@sco.ca.gov

Ken Howell, Senior Management Auditor, *State Controller's Office*
Audits, Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 725A, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-2368
KHowell@sco.ca.gov

Chuck Hughes, Special Assistant District Attorney, *County of Ventura*
District Attorney's Office, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 300, Ventura, CA 93009
Phone: (805) 477-1635
chuck.hughes@venturacounty.gov

Jason Jennings, Director, *Maximus Consulting*
Financial Services, 808 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23236
Phone: (804) 323-3535
SB90@maximus.com

Angelo Joseph, Supervisor, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-0706
AJoseph@sco.ca.gov

Anne Kato, Acting Chief, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA
95816
Phone: (916) 322-9891
akato@sco.ca.gov

Anita Kerezsi, *AK & Company*
2425 Golden Hill Road, Suite 106, Paso Robles, CA 93446
Phone: (805) 239-7994
akcompanysb90@gmail.com

Joanne Kessler, Fiscal Specialist, *City of Newport Beach*
Revenue Division, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 90266

Phone: (949) 644-3199
jkessler@newportbeachca.gov

Lisa Kurokawa, Bureau Chief for Audits, *State Controller's Office*
Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 327-3138
lkurokawa@sco.ca.gov

Government Law Intake, *Department of Justice*
Attorney General's Office, 1300 I Street, Suite 125, PO Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Phone: (916) 210-6046
governmentlawintake@doj.ca.gov

Eric Lawyer, Legislative Advocate, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*
Government Finance and Administration, 1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 650-8112
elawyer@counties.org

Kim-Anh Le, Deputy Controller, *County of San Mateo*
555 County Center, 4th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063
Phone: (650) 599-1104
kle@smcgov.org

Fernando Lemus, Principal Accountant - Auditor, *County of Los Angeles*
Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-0324
flemus@auditor.lacounty.gov

Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director, *Department of Finance*
915 L Street, 10th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
erika.li@dof.ca.gov

Kenneth Louie, Chief Counsel, *Department of Finance*
1021 O. Street, Suite 3110, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 322-0971
Kenny.Louie@dof.ca.gov

Everett Luc, Accounting Administrator I, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*
3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-0766
ELuc@sco.ca.gov

Jill Magee, Program Analyst, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
Jill.Magee@csm.ca.gov

Darryl Mar, Manager, *State Controller's Office*
Requester Representative
Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-0706
DMar@sco.ca.gov

Michelle Mendoza, *MAXIMUS*
17310 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 340, Irvine, CA 95403
Phone: (949) 440-0845
michellemendoza@maximus.com

Marilyn Munoz, Senior Staff Counsel, *Department of Finance*

915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-8918

Marilyn.Munoz@dof.ca.gov

Andy Nichols, *Nichols Consulting*

1857 44th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

Phone: (916) 455-3939

andy@nichols-consulting.com

Patricia Pacot, Accountant Auditor I, *County of Colusa*

Office of Auditor-Controller, 546 Jay Street, Suite #202 , Colusa, CA 95932

Phone: (530) 458-0424

ppacot@countyofcolusa.org

Arthur Palkowitz, *Law Offices of Arthur M. Palkowitz*

12807 Calle de la Siena, San Diego, CA 92130

Phone: (858) 259-1055

law@artpalk.onmicrosoft.com

Kirsten Pangilinan, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*

Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-2446

KPangilinan@sco.ca.gov

Trevor Power, Accounting Manager, *City of Newport Beach*

100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach , CA 92660

Phone: (949) 644-3085

tpower@newportbeachca.gov

Jonathan Quan, Associate Accountant, *County of San Diego*

Projects, Revenue, and Grants Accounting, 5530 Overland Ave, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 6198768518

Jonathan.Quan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Roberta Raper, Director of Finance, *City of West Sacramento*

1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Phone: (916) 617-4509

robertar@cityofwestsacramento.org

Jessica Sankus, Senior Legislative Analyst, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*

Government Finance and Administration, 1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 327-7500

jsankus@counties.org

Cindy Sconce, Director, *Government Consulting Partners*

5016 Brower Court, Granite Bay, CA 95746

Phone: (916) 276-8807

cindysconcecp@gmail.com

Carla Shelton, Senior Legal Analyst, *Commission on State Mandates*

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562

carla.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Camille Shelton, Chief Legal Counsel, *Commission on State Mandates*

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562
camille.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Paul Steenhausen, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, , Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8303
Paul.Steenhausen@lao.ca.gov

Jolene Tollenaar, *MGT Consulting Group*
2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: (916) 243-8913
jolenetollenaar@gmail.com

Jessica Uzarski, Consultant, *Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee*
1020 N Street, Room 502, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4103
Jessica.Uzarski@sen.ca.gov

Alejandra Villalobos, Management Services Manager, *County of San Bernardino*
Office of Auditor-Controller, 222 West Hospitality Lane, 4th Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415
Phone: (909) 382-3191
alejandra.villalobos@sbcountyatc.gov

Renee Wellhouse, *David Wellhouse & Associates, Inc.*
3609 Bradshaw Road, H-382, Sacramento, CA 95927
Phone: (916) 797-4883
dwa-renee@surewest.net

Adam Whelen, Director of Public Works, *City of Anderson*
1887 Howard St., Anderson, CA 96007
Phone: (530) 378-6640
awhelen@ci.anderson.ca.us

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, *Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)*
1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 447-4806
awylene@rcrcnet.org

Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, *Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee*
California State Senate, State Capitol Room 5019, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4103
elisa.wynne@sen.ca.gov

Kaily Yap, Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*
Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
Kaily.Yap@dof.ca.gov

Siew-Chin Yeong, Director of Public Works, *City of Pleasonton*
3333 Busch Road, Pleasonton, CA 94566
Phone: (925) 931-5506
syeong@cityofpleasontonca.gov

Helmholt Zinser-Watkins, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 700,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 324-7876
HZinser-watkins@sco.ca.gov