



**Office of Inspector General  
County of Los Angeles**

**Assessment of a Sample of Los Angeles  
County Probation Department  
Detention Reports**

**Issued March 6, 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

In response to concerns regarding the Probation Department's Detention Reports used in youth detention hearings, the Office of Inspector General conducted a review of the Probation Department's policies and procedures for evaluating whether a minor should be detained and the preparation of detention hearing reports. Detention reports are prepared by probation officers for all cases in which the minor has been detained upon arrest. Detention reports are not prepared for minors who were cited and released by either the arresting law enforcement agency or by the Probation Department.

As part of this review, the Office of Inspector General examined all detention reports submitted during January 2025 to assess the Department's recommendations in juvenile delinquency proceedings. The findings revealed that, out of 135 reports reviewed, none included a recommendation for release. The review focused specifically on minors charged with similar offenses involving firearm possession and whose social histories were easily compared. By using a comparative case study approach, the Office of Inspector General discovered inconsistencies in recommendations for the Community Detention Program (CDP), commonly referred to as "electronic monitoring," which serves as a form of supervised release and offers an alternative to confinement in Juvenile Hall." Cases involving similar charges showed varying weight given to risk factors and pro-social behaviors, with recommendations for release on CDP for minors with more risk factors and fewer pro-social behaviors and recommendations for detention for minors with fewer risk factors and more pro-social behaviors.

Different protocols are used when recommending release or detention at intake or in the detention report prepared for the court hearing on detention.<sup>1</sup> The intake decision is made using the numerical system set forth in the [Los Angeles Detention Screener \(LADS\)](#) assessment tool. In comparing the detention report recommendations to intake recommendations, we concluded that the numerical screening tool used at intake better evaluates a minor's risk level and is a more consistent, fair, and thoughtful tool for recommending detention.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of Inspector General received a response from the Probation Department after a review of the validation draft of this report. That response included the following statement, "[t]he protocols/screening tools are the same at intake as they are when the detention report is prepared. We suggest correcting the parts of the report which suggest otherwise and including the flow chart to explain the process and protocols used to determine whether to recommend detention." We understand that the probation officers preparing the reports are aware of the LADS assessment score, but by excluding the LADS score from the detention report, the officer is effectively not allowing the court to consider the score in reaching a detention decision. As one can see from the analysis and comparison of individual cases in this report, the detention reports do not adequately inform the courts of the more objective risk level conveyed by the numerical risk score.

Our recommendations at the conclusion of this report include that this screening tool not only be used internally by officers in preparing the detention report but that the court, the prosecutor, and defense counsel be provided with the LADS assessment score and/or the LADS screening report as part of the detention report.

## BACKGROUND

This report examines the process by which the initial intake detention decision is made and the process by which detention reports are prepared, and highlights how detention decisions often reflect the *subjective* judgment of the report writer and a general bias in favor of detaining a minor, which seems contrary to the presumption in [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) section 628](#) that mandates a minor's immediate release unless certain grounds for detention are present.<sup>2</sup> This report includes an overview and comparison of how detention recommendations and decisions are determined at two stages of the delinquency process: (1) post-arrest intake of juveniles at the detention facilities and (2) judicial detention hearings using criteria required by law and Department policy, including using the LADS assessment format.

The report compares detention report recommendations for minors charged with similar offenses by comparing the circumstances of their arrests and the risk assessment for release.

In preparing this report, it was discovered that multiple manuals and directives govern detention-related policies, including the Juvenile Manual, the Detention Services Bureau Manual, the Intake Detention and Control Manual (IDC Manual) and the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup. A separate CDP Manual provides further direction. Although the manuals are largely consistent, the sheer number creates the potential for confusion. The better practice to ensure that the information is easily accessible for staff is to have the information in one manual. While drafting this report, we observed that the IDC Manual available on the Probation Department website was the 2011 edition; only after reviewing a draft of this report did the Probation Department update the website with a link to the 2022 version, meaning the public did not have access to current policies until this year. The 2022 version of the IDC manual is now on the Department's website.

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<sup>2</sup> While it may be difficult to make all detention decisions purely objective, reducing the subjectivity in decisions is of paramount importance to ensure equal protection under the laws and fundamental principles of fairness.

[California Penal Code section 13650](#) requires all law enforcement agencies to post on the agency's website "all current standards policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials that would be available to the public if a request was made pursuant to the California Records Act." In addition to being a legal requirement, it is also a best practice to ensure transparency and to avoid responding to repeat requests for manuals. The Department should conduct an audit of all existing manuals, consolidate the policies on detention into a single, publicly accessible document, and evaluate the need for additions or deletions.<sup>3</sup>

## **PROBATION OFFICER INTAKE DECISIONS AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DETENTION OR RELEASE**

### **Initial Detention Determination Upon Arrest**

After a minor is arrested, the arresting agency after consulting with the Probation Department's Intake Detention and Control unit (IDC) may decide to cite and release the minor or may transport the minor to a juvenile hall.<sup>4</sup> For youth who are transported to juvenile hall by arresting agencies, IDC initiates an investigation of the minor's history and assesses the circumstances surrounding the arrest.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> In response to this report, Probation Department personnel stated, that, "[a] project to review and consolidate policies has been underway. The goal is to create two manuals: one for juvenile institutions and another for the probation department, outlining policies and procedures for both juvenile and adult field offices so that the existing 33 operational manuals can be effectively eliminated."

<sup>4</sup> The IDC Manual states in part that, "In an effort to divert youth from the Juvenile Justice System, local law enforcement agencies should consistently be encouraged by IDC DPOs to consider counsel and release for first-time, low-risk offenders to parents, guardians, or another responsible adult in lieu of formal arrest and filing of criminal charges. If counsel and release are not considered a viable option by the law enforcement agency, less restrictive alternatives to detention such as Promise to Appear (Citation) shall be encouraged by the IDC DPO as an exercise of law enforcement authority for discretionary release pursuant to WIC 628." See [IDC Manual](#) section 604.

<sup>5</sup> IDC undertakes a fact-finding investigation to determine the least restrictive detention alternative. After a youth is arrested, IDC assesses the criminal incident through communication with the arresting agency during the initial phone assessment. IDC inquires as to the circumstances of the arrest, the youth's involvement in the crime, and whether the known evidence is consistent with the arrest charges. Based on the assessment, IDC may recommend for a Field Cite. If the youth is not cited out by the arresting agency and cleared for intake, then the arresting agency transports the youth to juvenile hall. IDC then gathers additional facts, which include pulling the youth's arrest and criminal history. IDC interviews parents or guardians and youth to obtain information regarding youths' behavior at home, dynamics at home, possible gang involvement, any history of controlled-substance use, school progress and attendance, and any other pro-social or negative behaviors that warrant consideration in whether to recommend detention in a juvenile facility. IDC may contact the school to obtain additional information. Based in on the information and facts gathered, IDC will decide to whether to detain a youth at intake and make an appropriate recommendation for the court. Please note that the IDC Manual refers this fact-finding process as an investigation.

The IDC officer can release the youth at intake to juvenile hall or detain until a detention hearing is conducted by the juvenile court.<sup>6</sup>

Some charges, such as gun related charges and [WIC section 707\(b\)](#) charges<sup>7</sup>, require that the minor be taken before a juvenile judge<sup>8</sup>, in which case, the minor must be transported to a juvenile hall facility. Upon arrival, the IDC unit conducts a post-arrest assessment prior to the minor's initial court appearance. Pursuant to [WIC section 632](#), a detention hearing is scheduled within 48 hours. The IDC officer generates a detention report and makes one of three recommendations: (1) continued detention, (2) release of CDP, or (3) release without CDP, which may or may not include other conditions. This evaluation is guided by criteria outlined in the Los Angeles County Probation Department [Intake Detention and Control Manual](#) (IDC Manual), which is used to determine the appropriate detention decision.<sup>9</sup> This determination is guided by a LADS assessment, which is a one-page questionnaire that was implemented with the goal of generating an objective risk score.<sup>10</sup> The LADS assessment tool is designed to assist the IDC staff in determining whether a youth accused of a crime should be detained in a juvenile facility prior to appearing before a judge on criminal allegations or considered for alternatives to detention.<sup>11</sup> It is used immediately during the intake process and allows officers to engage with the youth, review the incident and arrest reports, and access relevant information from the Probation Case Management System. The tool evaluates the youth's risk level and likelihood of recidivism, supports consistent, fair, and thoughtful recommendations regarding detention decisions, and produces a numerical assessment score.

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<sup>6</sup> The Probation Department indicated that since September of 2025, IDC started tracking all cases where the probation officers make decisions to detain at intake as opposed to recommending cite outs with a promise to appear. It is IDC's goal to recommend for arresting agencies to cite and release youth to their parents/guardians at the scene as opposed to transporting youth to juvenile hall. These cases involve lower-level offenses that do not meet detention criteria. When arresting agencies agree to cite the youth at the scene, this is referred to as a Field Cite Recommendation. The Department reported that the average monthly number of Field Cite Recommendations was 77. This number has tripled since January 2025 when the number of Field Cite Recommendation was 23. According to the Department, arresting officers are only instructed to contact IDC when it is their intention to transport youth to juvenile hall. Hence, this number does not include arresting officers' decisions to cite out youths in the field with a promise to appear. In contrast, the average number of decisions to detain youth at intake creating the need to prepare a detention report to the court was 138. Based on the data, roughly 36% of all minors who were taken into custody were diverted from juvenile hall.

<sup>7</sup> [WIC section 707\(b\)](#) lists offenses for which a minor of a certain age may be tried as an adult if the juvenile delinquency court judge determines, using criteria set forth in this section, that the minor should be transferred to adult court.

<sup>8</sup> In California courts, judicial officers may be judges or commissioners. In this report when we refer to a judge it denotes the judicial officer who presides over the juvenile court. In some courts that may be a commissioner.

<sup>9</sup> [IDC Manual](#) section 701.

<sup>10</sup> See [Probation Department Detention Directive](#) 1229 and [LADS Instructions](#), and [DSB 400: Admission and Intake](#).

<sup>11</sup> Probation Department Directive 1229.

The IDC risk score is used by staff to assess whether a minor should be detained prior to their initial court appearance. The Probation Oversight Commission (POC) published a detailed report on the LADS system, [Probation Oversight Commission Analysis of Youths' LADS Scores](#), detailing that a higher score corresponds to a greater assessed risk.<sup>12</sup> The POC created the following grouping system illustrating the assessed risk data: Risk Score Green (low) 0-3, Yellow (medium) 4-7, Orange (high) 8-10, and Red (highest) 11-12. While the Probation Department uses LADS risk scores, it does not group the scores into these color-coded categories. The Office of Inspector General agrees that the color-coded categories accurately reflect the risk of releasing the minor and that a minor with a green score (low) should be released and a minor with a yellow (medium) should be strongly considered for CDP at intake unless required by law to be brought to court.<sup>13</sup> These scores must be determined using the grounds for detention in the Welfare and Institutions Code and the factors listed in the California Rules of Court, all of which are incorporated into the IDC Manual and are the same considerations in the LADS scoring system.

The Probation Department's IDC Manual documents the Department's detention policy and includes the LADS screening tool. Section 601 of the IDC Manual states:

“There are no automatic detentions (except those dictated by law and by court orders). Every referral shall be evaluated on its own merits, considering all factors. The decision to detain or release a minor received by the IDC DPO [Deputy Probation Officer] under the provisions of Section 628 WIC is ultimately subjective in nature. The Los Angeles Detention Screener (LADS) is a tool designed to achieve more objectivity in the detention/release decision. Criteria established under Section 628 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) establish the authority for the detention or release decision. Although objective facts are considered in the case decision making process, juvenile court law protects a minor's rights to an individualized detention hearing in which the court may not dispose of cases by mechanical rules on a categorical basis. (In re William M. 3c, 3d, 16).”

Section 602 of the IDC Manual, which cites to the basis for detention in the California Rules of the Court and references WIC section 628, delineates the grounds for detaining a minor upon arrest:<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [A Probation Oversight Commission Analysis of Youths' LADS Scores](#).

<sup>13</sup> Certain charges require that a minor be brought to court for a judge to determine if the minor should be released.

<sup>14</sup> The [2022 IDC Manual](#) cites to the California Rules of Court Rule 1477 in section 601 but has a strikethrough for a reference to Rule 1477 in section 602; in the 2025 California Rules of Court, these factors are set forth in

1. The child has violated an order of the court.
2. The child has escaped from a commitment of the court.
3. The child is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court.
4. It is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the child.
5. It is reasonably necessary for the protection of the person or property of another.

It is important to note that WIC section 628 **requires** the release of the minor unless evidence demonstrates that the minor's return to the home is contrary to the minor's welfare and at least one of these five conditions exists.<sup>15</sup> Section 628 requires a probation officer to:

Immediately investigate the circumstances of the minor and the facts surrounding their being taken into custody and shall immediately release the minor to the custody of their parent, legal guardian or responsible relative unless it can be demonstrated upon the evidence before the court that continuance in the home is contrary to the minor's welfare unless one or more of [these] conditions exist.

At intake, it is therefore the responsibility of the probation officer investigating the facts of the present offense and the minor's background to determine the applicability of these grounds for detention and to release the minor if the requirements of WIC 628 are not met, meaning at least one of these grounds for detention must exist.

The intake probation officer also considers the minor's suitability for CDP, which serves as a form of supervised release and offers an alternative to confinement in Juvenile Hall. According to Section 2702 of the Probation Department's Juvenile Manual, "The Community Detention Program (CDP) is a viable pre-disposition detention alternative for minors who would otherwise remain in Juvenile Hall."

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[Rule 5.750](#). WIC section 628 states that a minor may be detained only if one or more of the following conditions exist:

(A) continued detention of the minor is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the minor or reasonable necessity for the protection of the person or property of another, (B) the minor is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court, (C) the minor has violated an order of the juvenile court.

<sup>15</sup> WIC section 628 lists the grounds for detention in three categories. The IDC Manual better delineates the grounds set forth in the law by separating them into five grounds for detaining the minor. However, Attachment B to the [LADS Directive](#) is document titled, *Overrides Base on the 628 WIC – Legal Requirements for Detention*. While it is true that the grounds listed would likely result in finding grounds to detain the minor, WIC section 628 makes it clear that the minor should be released *unless* at least one of the five grounds exist. Attachment B by using the term "overrides," suggests that a minor must be detained if any of the factors listed exist. That phrasing is contrary to the intent of WIC sections 628 and 635.

Under CDP, a minor is placed on home supervision or at a placement facility with electronic monitoring at the “point of intake” (generally at a juvenile hall facility) by a DPO in the IDC unit or later at a detention hearing.<sup>16</sup> If the minor is detained by IDC and not released or placed on CDP, the minor then has a detention hearing scheduled within 48 hours of being taken into custody. At the detention hearing, the judge has the option of continuing the detention of the minor, releasing the minor, or placing the minor on CDP.

If the minor is detained, the same IDC officer who used LADS to determine detention must prepare a detention report for the court to consider, along with any other evidence presented at the detention hearing, in determining if the evidence substantiates that at least one of these conditions is present to justify the continued detention of the minor.<sup>17</sup>

The LADS system identifies historical and current behavioral risks and pro-social behaviors that are used as factors in determining whether these five grounds for detention apply.<sup>18</sup> The Probation Department reported that the LADS risk score is used by the IDC officer for the intake assessment and in determining recommendations for release or detention and by the officer preparing the report for the court detention hearing. However, neither the LADS report nor the LADS score is provided to the judge for use at the detention hearing.

## Detention Hearing

If the minor is detained by IDC, a court reviews a detention report prepared by the Probation Department in deciding whether the minor is to remain in custody during the pendency of the Juvenile Court proceedings. [WIC section 632](#) mandates this be done “as soon as possible but in any event before the expiration of the next judicial day after a petition to declare the minor a ward... has been filed.” The Department’s Juvenile Manual section 100 states, “Any minor taken into custody and not released from juvenile hall or placed on community detention program within 48 judicial hours from arrest must be brought before the juvenile court for a detention hearing.”<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> WIC sections 628.1 and 629.

<sup>17</sup> WIC sections 635 and 636 require that a probation officer prepare a detention report if the minor is detained prior to a court determination on detention. It need not be that same probation officer that decides the initial detention prepares the detention report for the court, but the same grounds should be detailed in each; only if new evidence supporting a factor is discovered should there be a difference in the initial detention determination and the report to the court. In Los Angeles County, it is the practice that an intake probation officer prepares the intake report and a court probation officer prepares the detention report for the court.

<sup>18</sup> [IDC Manual](#) section 701.

<sup>19</sup> [Los Angeles County Probation Department Juvenile Manual \(2008\)](#).

The initial hearing is similar to an arraignment hearing for an adult defendant, with the minor being made aware of the charges but, rather than determining a bail, the court must decide whether a minor should be detained or not. The juveniles are either detained or not and bail is not set as the law does not allow for bail to be set in juvenile delinquency proceedings. A detention report is prepared by the court probation officer to assist the court.<sup>20</sup> This report typically includes the circumstances of the arrest, the minor's prior history with the justice system, family and school background, and the probation officer's *subjective* recommendation regarding continued detention or release. The primary purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the minor should remain in custody, be released to a parent or guardian either with or without conditions, or be released on CDP. WIC section 635 sets forth the same grounds for detention as WIC section 628 for the court to consider in determining whether to continue to keep the minor detained. WIC section 635 states in relevant part:

(a) The court will examine the minor, their parent, legal guardian, or other person having relevant knowledge, hear relevant evidence the minor, their parent, legal guardian, or counsel desires to present, and, unless it appears that the minor has violated an order of the juvenile court or has escaped from the commitment of the juvenile court or that it is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the minor or reasonably necessary for the protection of the person or property of another that they be detained or that the minor is likely to flee to avoid the jurisdiction of the court, the court shall make its order releasing the minor from custody.

In determining the evidence supporting detention under each of the five grounds set forth in WIC sections 628 and 635, the court may consider various factors that are detailed in California Rules of Court Rule 5.760(g) through (k) and incorporated into IDC Manual section 602.<sup>21</sup>

In conjunction with considering these five grounds for detention, [California Rules of Court Rule 5.760](#) also requires that:

Before detaining the child, the court must determine whether continuance in the home of the parent or legal guardian is contrary to the child's welfare and whether there are available services that would prevent the need for further detention. The court must make these

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<sup>20</sup> [Juvenile Detention report \(blank\)](#).

<sup>21</sup> [Welfare and Institutions Code section 635\(a\)](#) et seq and [California Rules of Court 5.758](#) et seq.

determinations on a case-by-case basis and must state the evidence relied on in reaching its decision.

(1) If the court determines that the child can be returned to the home of the parent or legal guardian through the provision of services, the court must release the child to the parent or guardian and order that the probation department provide the required services.

(2) If the child cannot be returned to the home of the parent or legal guardian, the court must state the facts on which the detention is based.

If the court decides the minor must remain detained, the facts on which the detention is based must fit into at least one of the five grounds for detention in WIC section 635.

Because the court probation officer presents the evidence of these considerations to the court in the detention report, the report plays a crucial role in the judge's decision to release or detain the minor. The Court considers each of these grounds in making its determination of release, release on CDP, or detention.

In addition to the detention hearing, there are hearings to ensure due process, prima facie proof that the minor committed the alleged crime, and an individualized assessment of the necessity of detaining the minor. Defense counsel may request one or both of these hearings:

**“Dennis H.” hearing** - If a minor is ordered detained at the detention hearing, they have the right to confront those who have prepared reports upon which the detention is based. This hearing is held three to five days following the detention hearing. If the witnesses do not appear, the minor is released.

**“William M.” hearing** - Continued detention of a minor rests on several issues. These include the presentation of a *prima facie* case that the minor committed the alleged offense, and that the detention process was sufficiently individualized for the minor.<sup>22</sup> The hearing is held three to five judicial days following the detention hearing. “Dennis H.” and “William M.” issues are often heard at the same hearing.

## Contents of the Detention Report

The Probation Department's detention report includes a summary of the evidence supporting the charges outlined in the petition, along with statements from the minor's

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<sup>22</sup> Applicable in WIC section 602 cases.

parents that may reflect concerns, expressions of support, or other relevant information. The report also evaluates various aspects of the minor's personal and family history and prior contacts with the criminal justice system history. Based on this information, the assigned DPO provides a recommendation regarding whether the minor should remain detained. The Probation Department does not use the LADS scoring system in preparing the detention report, making the recommendation less objective than the report generated during the intake process. Instead, Section 14 of the detention report outlines the factors considered, presented as checkboxes for the DPO to mark as applicable.<sup>23</sup> These factors include:

- School performance
- Gang involvement
- Substance use
- Domestic violence history
- Supervision at home
- Suitable home environment
- Runaway history
- Threat to the community
- Likelihood of flight
- Prior court order violations
- Other (including facts of the current offense)

The detention report prepared by the probation officer should also address the Community Detention Program (CDP) as an alternative to detention, as the judge has the option of continuing the minor's detention, releasing the minor, or placing the minor on CDP after considering the same factors delineated in Rule 5.760 that are the basis for determining whether the grounds for detention favor a release on CDP.

Because the LADS scoring system is used by the probation officer at intake to determine whether the minor should be detained, released on CDP or released, the Office of Inspector General recommends using the same scoring system in the detention report provided to the court. This scoring system provides a more objective

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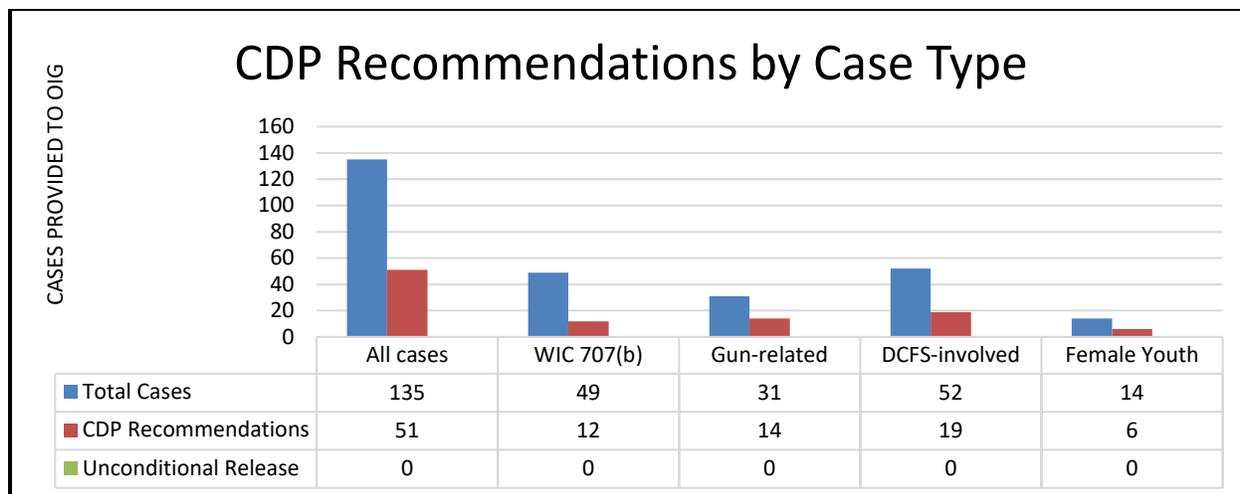
<sup>23</sup> Although not explicitly identified as LADS in the detention report, the information requested by the Probation Department in Section 14 aligns closely with the data typically captured by LADS during the initial detention screening process. But the absence of an assessment score tends to make the detention report less objective than the intake report.

determination because it uses a score rather than checkboxes for the various factors. Of course, any new evidence supporting the minor's release should be presented to the court in the detention report as more information about the alleged crime and the minor's personal and family history is discovered. As with the detention decision at intake, the Office of Inspector General agrees with the POC report determination that the color-coded categories reflect the risk of releasing the minor and that a minor with a green score (low score) should be released and a minor with a yellow (medium score) should be strongly considered release for CDP.

## **ANALYSIS OF JANUARY 2025 DETENTION REPORTS**

The Office of Inspector General reviewed a total of 135 detention reports provided to the Office of Inspector General by the Probation Department, encompassing all detention reports prepared by the Probation Department during January 2025. These reports were authored by various DPOs. Each recommendation within the reports was based on the individual officer's *subjective* assessment of the youth's background and circumstances. Key observations from the review of these reports include the following findings:

- Of the 135 cases, **0** reports recommended unconditional release.
- 51 reports included recommendations for placement on CDP.
- [WIC section 707\(b\)](#) cases: Of 49 cases, 12 were recommended for CDP.
- Gun-related cases: of 31 cases, 14 received CDP recommendations.
- DCFS-involved minors: of 52 cases, 19 were recommended for CDP.
- Female minors: of 14 cases, 6 received CDP recommendations.
- Black minors: of 39 cases, 11 received CDP recommendations.
- Latino minors: of 88 cases, 24 received CDP recommendations.
- White minors: of 7 cases, 1 received CDP recommendation.
- Asian minors: of 1 case, 1 received CDP recommendation.



The Office of Inspector General reviewed the 135 detention reports to evaluate the consistency of CDP recommendations. The review focused specifically on minors charged with similar offenses, firearm possession, and who shared comparable social histories. By using a comparative case study approach, the Office of Inspector General discovered inconsistencies in how detention recommendations are applied.

A selection of these case studies is included in this report to illustrate the challenges posed by a system that allows for *subjective* interpretation. These examples represent only a portion of the total reports reviewed and are intended to demonstrate broader patterns.

It is important to note that while the Probation Department determines detention at intake, at the court hearing to determine whether detention should continue the Probation Department provides detention recommendations, but the decision to detain a minor rests with the court. This review did not include an analysis of the Courts' rulings at detention hearings.

The review revealed inconsistencies in the detention report recommendations for CDP for minors facing similar charges and possessing comparable social histories. The Office of Inspector General identified several cases that exemplify these discrepancies. To protect the privacy of the individuals involved, this report does not include any identifying information. Instead, each case is referenced by its corresponding number from the set of 135 reports reviewed.

### Comparisons of Similar Cases

To highlight inconsistencies in detention recommendations, the Office of Inspector General compared six cases involving minors with similar gun possession charges and alleged facts of the crime. There were some similarities in social background; often any

differences did not result in a reasoned decision on whether to detain the minor or place the minor on CDP.<sup>24</sup> The detention reports often reached differing conclusions that could not be explained by the risk factors or pro-social behaviors noted in the report. In some similar instances, the Probation Department recommended release with electronic monitoring on CDP, while in others, it recommended continued detention without CDP consideration.

All six minors were charged with possession of a loaded firearm under Penal Code section 25850(a) and were not recommended for general release. There were notable inconsistencies in the application of recommending CDP, with half of the minors being denied CDP.<sup>25</sup> Each case was assessed by a different DPO, which may have contributed to the variation in recommendations, and highlighting the subjective nature of the detention decision-making process.

### *Minors 27, 76, and 77*

#### **Minor 27 - Incident description**

Officers observed the minor walking and noted that, upon seeing them, the minor turned away and appeared to adjust his waistband. Suspecting the minor might be armed, the officers made a U-turn to initiate a pedestrian stop. As they completed the turn, a witness flagged them down and reported, "That guy dressed in black just showed me a gun." Officers proceeded with a pedestrian stop. Upon approach, the minor immediately jumped over a fence, prompting a foot pursuit, but was ultimately taken into custody. During a pat-down search, officers recovered a loaded firearm secured around the minor's right ankle. According to the witness, he had been driving when he observed the minor tagging a wall. He approached the minor and told him to stop writing on the wall. In response, the minor lifted his sweater and revealed a firearm tucked into his waistband. The minor was arrested for carrying a concealed firearm on a person. He was charged with the offense of minor in possession of a firearm.

The detention report recommended that the minor not be released but instead be considered for placement on CDP. The report evaluated the minor using 11 standard detention factors to assess risk and determine the appropriate level of supervision or detention. The 11 factors considered and determined by the DPO in the detention report were as follows:

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<sup>24</sup> Only male youth were included in the case studies. The 14 female youth cases reviewed did not present any notable inconsistencies in CDP recommendations. Certainly, there were some differences in the behavioral risk factors, which we have tried to convey in this report while maintaining confidentiality.

<sup>25</sup> The inconsistencies did not appear to be based on implicit bias due to race or other factors as there were inconsistencies among youth of the same ethnicity.

- Attending school - *yes*
- Gang activity - *yes*
- Drug activity - *yes*
- Domestic violence - *no*
- Supervision at home - *no*
- Suitable home - *yes*
- Runaway - *no*
- Threat to community or self - *yes*
- Likely to flee - *no*
- Violated court order - *no*
- Other – no additional information noted

The report did not note that the minor was engaged in violent or anti-social behavior, despite the alleged facts of the crime.

The explanation given by the DPO for not recommending release of the minor was:

*The minor was tagging while armed with the firearm. A witness admonished him to stop writing walls and he brazenly lifted up his sweater to intimidate the witness. Mother gives a good behavior report. She's totally oblivious to the minor's drug and alcohol use and who he associates with. Hence the question is what kind of a lifestyle is the minor living? Firearms are for protection, to make you feel safe, or for power, which may be perceived as prominence. When guns are the weapon of choice, juvenile violence has the potential to become deadly. Released without additional supervision is not recommended.*

The explanation given by the DPO for CDP was:

*The minor does not have an arrest history and he's nearly the age of majority. However, he is associating with individuals of questionable character and now appears to be arming himself. Community detention is recommended at this time as the least restrictive detention alternative. This level of intervention should mitigate the threat the minor poses to himself and the community. Moreover, participation in the CDP program*

*will also assist parents in monitoring the minor's behavior in school and the community.*

Although the minor had no prior arrests, the circumstances of the incident suggest conduct beyond simple firearm possession. Specifically, the minor allegedly used the firearm to intimidate a witness by lifting his sweater and displaying the weapon after being confronted for tagging. Even with this aggravating factor, and risk factors as determined by the DPO that included gang activity, drug activity, and a lack of supervision in the home, the detention report recommended that the minor not be released but be considered for CDP placement as it was the least restrictive detention alternative.

### **Minor 76 – Incident description**

Officers were on patrol and encountered a stolen vehicle and attempted to stop it. The minor accelerated to a high rate of speed, but eventually stopped, exited the vehicle, and ran away. Subsequently, officers took the minor into custody and searched the backpack that the minor was wearing while running away from the officers and discovered a loaded handgun. The minor was arrested for carrying a loaded firearm in a public place and taken to a juvenile facility. He was charged with one count of unauthorized taking of a vehicle, fleeing the police and driving with a wanton disregard for the safety of others, carrying a concealed firearm, and carrying a loaded firearm in a public place.

The detention report recommended the minor not be released and *not* be given CDP. The 11 factors considered and determined by the DPO in the detention report were as follows:

- Attending school - *yes*
- Gang activity - *no*
- Drug activity - *no*
- Domestic violence - *no*
- Supervision at home - *yes*
- Suitable home - *yes*
- Runaway - *no*
- Threat to community or self - *yes*

- Likely to flee - *no*
- Violated court order - *no*
- Other – no additional information noted

Of the 11 factors mentioned above, only *one* was negative – *threat to community*. The alleged facts of the crime were not more aggravating than for Minor 27 and Minor 76 had fewer risk factors. Yet the DPO did not recommend release or CDP.

The explanation given by the DPO for not recommending release of the minor was:

*Due to the serious nature of the offense, release at this time is not recommended. Although this is minor's first law enforcement contact, he poses a significant threat to the community by having a loaded firearm with a magazine filled to the capacity in his possession. The minor's current charges are circumstances are severe in nature, requiring immediate intervention and restriction.*

In determining that the minor should not be placed on CDP, the DPO simply stated:

*Due to the safety of the community, CDP is not recommended.*

There were no allegations that the minor used the firearm to threaten or intimidate others, unlike in Case 27, where the minor allegedly displayed the weapon in a threatening manner. Despite the more serious circumstances in Case 27, that detention report recommended CDP. In contrast, no CDP recommendation was made in this case, even though the conduct involved was arguably less aggravating and the DPO's assessment that there were fewer risk factors due to a lack of gang and drug activity, and better supervision at home. Considering *only* the alleged facts of the crime itself negates the importance of the other factors, which are factors for a reason.<sup>26</sup> This discrepancy underscores the inconsistent application of CDP recommendations, even among cases involving similar charges.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> This report is not suggesting that the alleged facts of certain crimes might be sufficient reason to detain a minor even absent risk factors other than a threat to the community. But in both the reports for Minor 27 and Minor 76 the risk of being a threat to the community was present but other factors mitigated that threat, including the absence of previous law enforcement contacts.

<sup>27</sup> It should also be noted that the DPO checked the boxes for available services that could facilitate the child's return to the home as including mental health treatment and private residential treatment to address issues such as substance abuse, sexual abuse, mental illness, anger management, family violence, family dysfunction, and school-related problems despite no facts supporting that any of these issues were present in this minor's history. While it is possible that such issues were not brought to light in the DPO's interviews and background check, such laundry lists are not particularized to a minor's needs and therefore are not helpful in determining the appropriate services to facilitate the minor returning to the home when detained.

## Minor 77 – Incident Description

Officers conducted a vehicle stop. One of the occupants exited the vehicle and a firearm dropped to the ground from his waistband. Officers instructed the minor to exit the vehicle, and the minor informed law enforcement that he had a firearm in his waistband. The officers recovered the loaded firearm and arrested the minor for (1) minor in possession of a firearm, (2) minor in possession of live ammunition, and (3) minor carrying a loaded firearm armed person or vehicle in public. The minor was charged with minor in possession of a firearm.

The detention report recommended the minor *not* be released, but recommended CDP.

The information for the 11 factors considered and determined by the DPO in the detention report was incomplete and as follows:

- Attending school - *blank*
- Gang activity - *blank*
- Drug activity - *blank*
- Domestic violence - *no*
- Supervision at home – *no*
- Suitable home - *yes*
- Runaway - *blank (but elsewhere the DPO checked off the box for Prior Runaway/Delinquent History)*
- Threat to community or self - *yes*
- Likely to flee - *no*
- Violated court order - *no*
- Other

The likely reason for the factors without information is because the DPO was unable to reach the minor's mother. This minor had one previous documented contact with law enforcement.

The explanation for not recommending release of the minor was:

*The elements of the arrest suggest the minor is criminally sophisticated. The arrest represents the minor's second documented contact with law enforcement.*

*The intake officer was unable to the mother [sic] discuss the minor's behavior at home and school. The minor's alleged offense, intake officer to [sic] contact mother, his peer selection, and his access to firearm, elicits concern and justifies increased supervision and restriction.*

The DPO recommended CDP stating:

*The officer recommended the community detention program based on information provided in this report. The intake officer presumed the minor required additional restriction or immediate intervention after his court appearance.*

Although each case presents unique circumstances, Cases 27, 76, and 77 involved minors with similar charges, and some similarity of alleged facts of the crimes. In all three cases, the minors were assessed as posing a “threat to the community” and were not recommended for general release.

However, there were notable inconsistencies in recommending CDP. Minors 27 and 77 were recommended for CDP, while Minor 76 was not. In fact, the minor who was recommended for detention and was not recommended for CDP had the *fewest risk factors* and the *most pro-social factors*.

Minor 76's report included detailed background information provided by his grandmother during an interview, including information that that the minor was not affiliated with a gang, did not use drugs, and that she wanted him to return home.

Minor 76 had no prior law enforcement contacts, no known gang or drug activity, had a suitable home and was supervised in the home but was not recommended for CDP.

The alleged facts of Minor 27's crime were more serious and he had more risk factors, including gang activity and drug use but CDP was recommended.

Minor 77 had a prior law enforcement contact but CDP was recommended even though many of the risk factors were left blank, indicating a lack of knowledge regarding those risk factors, likely because Minor 77's mother could not be reached; despite not being able to contact a guardian, the DPO noted that the minor was supervised in the home and the home was suitable. This conclusion was reached even after the minor did not provide any information as to his behavior in the home and the DPO checked off a box that there was a lack of parental control. These discrepancies illustrate the inconsistent application of detention protocols and raise concerns about the completeness, fairness, and objectivity of the evaluation process.

## *Minors 29, 31 and 94*

### **Minor 29 – Incident Description**

Officers conducted a vehicle stop in which the minor was the sole occupant. During the stop, the officers determined that the minor did not possess a valid driver's license and had an outstanding warrant. A loaded firearm was discovered during a search of the vehicle. The minor was detained on the open warrant and was charged with carrying a loaded firearm in a public place.

The detention report recommended the minor *not* be released. The 11 factors considered and determined by the DPO in section 14 of the detention report were as follows:

- Attending school - *no*
- Gang activity - *no*
- Drug activity - *no*
- Domestic violence - *no*
- Supervision at home - *yes (despite the mother stating that she had not seen the minor since the warrant was issued)*
- Suitable home - *no*
- Runaway - *yes*
- Threat to community or self - *yes*
- Likely to flee - *yes*
- Violated court order - *yes*
- Other - *new arrest*

The explanation provided by the DPO Probation for not recommending release of the minor was:

*Information related to the current offense suggest [sic] the youth is engaged in negative activity and a propensity to take inappropriate risks. The youth's warrant status suggest [sic] he willfully avoided contact with Probation and the court. This arrest matter shows a level of delinquency requiring immediate intervention and restriction.*

Section 14, subsection B of the detention report addresses whether CDP is recommended. For this minor, CDP was recommended despite the warrant and other risk factors, with the DPO providing the following explanation:

*The court may wish to place the youth on community detention program at the court hearing. This will provide the parent with assistance in supervising the youth and restriction of the youth's ability to leave the home at will. The increase [sic] restriction and supervision provided by the probation officer in this program serves to mitigate any threat the youth poses to himself and the community.*

### **Minor 31 - Incident Description**

Officers conducted a vehicle stop during which the minor, who was a passenger in the car, fled on foot. The officers observed the minor holding his waistband while running, leading them to believe he was armed. Although the officers initiated a foot pursuit, they temporarily lost sight of the minor. Security camera footage from a nearby business showed the minor discarding a firearm while fleeing. A search of the area along the minor's flight path led to the recovery of a loaded firearm and some clothing that the minor was observed wearing. The minor was located inside a perimeter set up to find him. The minor again attempted to flee but the officers were able to arrest him. The minor was charged with carrying a concealed firearm on person.

The detention report recommended the minor *not* be released. The 11 factors considered and determined by the DPO in section 14 of the detention report were as follows:

- Attending school - *yes*
- Gang activity - *no*
- Drug activity - *no*
- Domestic violence - *no*
- Supervision at home - *yes*
- Suitable home - *yes*
- Runaway - *no*
- Threat to community or self - *yes*
- Likely to flee - *yes*

- Violated court order - *yes (there is no indication that the minor violated a court order)*
- Other - *new arrest*

The explanation provided by the DPO for not recommending release of the minor was:

*Based on the police information, the minor was observed with a loaded firearm. Records indicated this is his first offense and is considered a [Welfare and Institutions code section 707(b) [offense]]. At home, the minor is cooperative and indicated he is attending school. Due to the serious offense, release is not considered at this time.*

The offense charged is not a [Welfare and Institutions Code section 707\(b\)](#) offense.<sup>28</sup> The detention report noted that this was the minor's first offense. Therefore, the claim that the minor "violated a court order" appears to be inaccurate, as the minor was not on probation and had no prior court involvement. Additionally, under the *Other* factor, the report lists "new arrest" as a justification. However, this should not be considered a valid factor unless there was a prior arrest to compare it against. Since this was the minor's first arrest, the inclusion of "new arrest" under this category appears to be a misapplication of the criteria. These inaccuracies raise concerns about the reliability and accuracy of the detention assessment process in this case.

Section 14, subsection B of the detention report addresses whether CDP is recommended. For this minor, CDP was *not* recommended, with the DPO providing the following explanation:

*"This does not appear to be an appropriate option. The alleged offense, [sic] is considered serious and violent."*

While carrying a loaded firearm is undeniably a dangerous offense, it is not classified as a *serious or violent* offense unless the weapon is used or threatened to be used.<sup>29</sup> Although the Court ultimately determines whether a minor is released or placed on CDP, it relies heavily on the accuracy and completeness of the information presented in the detention report.

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<sup>28</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b) lists crimes that make minors of a certain age eligible to be tried as an adult. These crimes are referred to as serious or violent crimes in statutes relating to adults.

<sup>29</sup> California Penal Code section 667.5(c); California Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b).

Despite having no previous arrests, no warrant, few risk factors, and more pro-social behaviors, CDP was not recommended for this minor when CDP was recommended for Minors 29, 27, and 77.

### **Minor 94 – Incident Description**

Officers observed a vehicle traveling 20 miles an hour over the speed limit and running a red light. The officers conducted a vehicle stop and determined that the driver had a suspended license. During a search of the vehicle, the officers recovered a loaded firearm on the passenger-side floorboard, where the minor was seated. None of the vehicle's occupants claimed ownership of the firearm. The minor was arrested for carrying a loaded firearm in a public place; the minor was not charged as the District Attorney declined to file charges.

The detention report recommended the minor *not* be released but *did* recommend CDP. The 11 factors check boxes in the detention report were as follows:

- Attending school - *yes*
- Gang activity - *no*
- Drug activity - *yes*
- Domestic violence - *no*
- Supervision at home - *yes*
- Suitable home - *yes*
- Runaway - *no*
- Threat to community or self – *no*
- Likely to flee - *no*
- Violated court order - *no*
- Other

The explanation for not recommending the minor's release was:

*Release without increased supervision is not recommended. It is alleged that the minor was found to be in possession of a firearm, in a vehicle, with other companions. Although the current offense does meet the minimum requirement for detention, this is his first law enforcement contact, his mother reports no*

*issues with his behavior in the home and he is scheduled to graduate from high school in a couple of weeks.*

The DPO recommended CDP, stating:

*Release on CDP is recommended. CDP will serve to benefit the minor by providing monitored supervision and will mitigate risk for new delinquent behavior while this matter is reviewed by the court (the minor was released to his mother on CDP prior to court).*

In comparing the three cases, all minors, Cases 28, 31 and 94, were charged with firearm-related offenses and were not recommended for general release. However, while Minors 29 and 94 were placed on CDP, Minor 31 was not.

The comparison of these three cases to the previous three cases in this report highlights the same concerns about the conclusions reached on recommending CDP. In five of the six cases, the minor was noted to be a threat to himself or others; it would seem that in all six cases this box should have been checked given that it was a firearm offense and there was no suggestion of any mitigating factors relating to the possession of a gun.

The lack of standardized interpretation and application of detention criteria allows similar cases to yield different outcomes based on the assigned officer. Inconsistent weighting of key factors, such as threat level, other risk factors such as gang affiliation, drug use, supervision in the home, and lack of school attendance, and pro-social behavioral history undermines the fairness and reliability of the detention process. This variability highlights the urgent need for clearer guidelines and uniform training to ensure equitable treatment across cases.

A review of CDP recommendations revealed clear inconsistencies. Cases involving similar charges showed varying weight given to other risk factors and pro-social behaviors, resulted in recommendations that favored minors with more risk factors being recommended CDP in multiple cases, while minors with fewer risk factors and more pro-social behaviors were recommended for detention.

The LADS assessment tool is designed to assist the IDC staff in determining whether a youth accused of a crime should be detained in a juvenile facility prior to appearing before a judge on criminal allegations or considered for alternatives to detention. It is a tool that can be used to more objectively weigh the risk factors to determine whether a minor should be detained, placed on CDP or released to a parent or guardian. LADS is

a more effective tool to evaluate a minor's risk level for threats to community and the minor's safety and likelihood of recidivism if released and is a more consistent, fair, and thoughtful tool for recommending detention decisions using a numerical score. Using the LADS assessment tool should produce a more objective assessment score than detention reports, in which probation officers do not generate a numerical score.

At the initial detention determination by the Probation Department all six minors were detained because of Probation's policy of detaining upon arrest on gun charges. Their LADS scores varied. A comparison of LADS score versus detention report recommendations side by side indicates some inconsistency:

- Minor 27: LADS score was 5; CDP recommendation in the detention report.
- Minor 76: LADS score 6; no CDP recommendation in the detention report.
- Minor 77: LADS score 2; CDP recommendation in the detention report.
- Minor 29: LADS score 6; CDP recommendation in the detention report.
- Minor 31: LADS score 4; no CDP recommendation in the detention report.
- Minor 94: LADS score 1; CDP recommendation in the detention report.

Minors 76 and 29 both received a LADS score of 6; yet one minor received a CDP recommendation in the detention report, while the other did not.

In fact, none of the minors would be considered above a medium risk based upon the groupings in the POC's report.<sup>30</sup> Minors 77 and 94 are low risk and a recommendation of release to the parent or guardian without CDP would have been appropriate. For the remaining minors, with each of their risk scores being in the medium range, recommending CDP would have been appropriate for all of them given that probation officers should recommend the least restrictive alternative.<sup>31</sup> Additionally, while two of the scores in the medium risk category were at the upper end of the range, in one case CDP was recommended and in the other case it was not.

## CONCLUSION

The Los Angeles County Probation Department plays a central role in the juvenile detention process. It employs a two-tier system for detention decisions: detention upon arrest and detention following a juvenile court hearing. Data from January 2025 show

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<sup>30</sup> In the POC report, the Risk Scores are: Green (low) 0-3, Yellow (medium) 4-7, Orange (high) 8-10, Red (highest) 11-12.

<sup>31</sup> The POC's report found that of the 521 youth in the custody of the Probation Department as of December 1, 2024, 100 of the minors had a score of 0-3, and 231 had a score of 4-7. For a breakdown, see [Probation Oversight Commission Analysis of Youths' LADS Scores](#), at page 2.

that detention either in a juvenile hall or on CDP was recommended in every (100 percent) detention report. There were *zero* recommendations for release of any minor in the cases examined.<sup>32</sup>

While the more objective LADS assessment tool is used by the IDC unit for initial detention decisions, the LADS numerical assessment system is not used for the detention reports prepared for court hearings. In these cases, the subjective judgment of the report writer plays a more prominent role. A more effective and equitable approach would be to use the same system used for determining detention, CDP, or release at intake for making recommendations to the court. The LADS assessment is a means of ensuring a more objective decision-making process. Of course, standardized training with clearer guidance on the factors used to make the recommendations is also warranted. Ongoing training is a valuable tool in ensuring consistency.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Office of Inspector General recommends that the Probation Department:

- (1) Conduct an audit of detention reports to identify the cause of the lack of release recommendations in the detention reports.
- (2) Audit reports to determine if there are detention report writers who consistently recommend detention and not CDP and determine if such recommendations are appropriate based on the facts.
- (3) Audit all existing manuals, consolidate the policies on detention into a single, publicly accessible document, and evaluate the need for manual revisions.<sup>33</sup>
- (4) Comply with [California Penal Code section 13650](#) by posting on the Probation Department website “all current standards policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials that would be available to the public if a request was made pursuant to the California Records Act.”
- (5) Conduct regular training on writing detention reports.

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<sup>32</sup> However, this does not mean all minors remained detained following the detention hearing, as the courts have the final authority. But certainly, judicial officers likely rely upon the detention report in its detention decision. If those reports are not accurate, fair, and unbiased then the judicial officer may not be able to adequately assess the risk of releasing the minor or releasing the minor on CDP.

<sup>33</sup> As noted in footnote 8, the IDC Manual cites to Rule 1477, which is codified in the 2025 California Rules of Court in [Rule 5.750](#). Updating the manual to, at a minimum, refer to the current version of the Rules of Court is warranted.

- (6) Explore adding LADS system scores to detention reports to provide a numerical score with the highest score being the highest risk for release, so that the court may consider a more objective indicator of the risk in releasing the minor or releasing the minor on CDP.
- (7) Include the LADS assessment as part of the detention report and provide that report to the court, the prosecutor, and defense counsel be provided with LADS assessment as part of the detention report.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Probation Department provided the following response to the Office of Inspector General's recommendations:

- Nos. 1 and 2 – conducting audits of detention reports.
  - IDC Management has already started developing a Quality Assurance process where the Supervisors and Manager will pull random/specific cases for review. Documentation of the assessment will address the investigative efforts to obtain all facts, quality of the written report, the recommendation, and the court outcome. The assessments will be discussed with the respective IDC Officers on a monthly or quarterly basis. This process will include identifying officers making mistakes in reports or inappropriate recommendations so that corrective action can be taken. In December 2025, IDC Management began identifying and pulling cases where IDC's recommendation to Detain or Release at the Detention Hearings contradicted with the actual court outcomes. The identified case reviews are targeting the LADS score, the youths' strengths/risk factors and comparing these areas to the IDC Officer's recommendations. IDC is working on creating a formal audit process to include documentation of the audits and corrective action(s) if necessary. The process is expected to be finalized and implemented by March 2026.
- No. 3 Audit manuals and policies.
  - The Policy Unit has been in the process of reviewing all manuals and policies as indicated above. However, due to the Policy Unit needing to prioritize BSCC audits and the Depopulation plan, the project has been delayed a few times.

- No. 4 Post current policies.
  - This recommendation has been implemented.
  
- No. 5 Conduct regular training on writing detention reports.
  - This recommendation has been implemented. IDC has been providing informal refresher training for IDC officers since July 2025 to ensure that all investigations are thorough, concise and within Departmental policy. In-house one-on-one training and monthly training provided via TEAMS meetings have been facilitated to target different areas of the Detention Report. This has already been occurring. To initiate a formal approach, IDC plans to work with the Probation Training Center to develop Intensified Format Training (IFT) to focus on the investigative efforts and enhanced report writing processes.
  
- No. 6 Explore using LADS in detention reports.
  - IDC already uses LADS in preparing detention reports. Because most intakes are based on statute, court orders or Departmental policy, IDC is utilizing LADS in combination with the mitigating/aggravating circumstances to determine the court recommendation as shown in the workflow chart.
  
- No. 7 Include LADS assessment as part of detention report and provide to the court, the prosecutor and defense counsel.
  - As mentioned above, Probation is revising the LADS in collaboration with CA-DOJ and plans to include in the detention reports and provide to the courts and attorneys after they are trained on the assessment tool should the courts find the information useful.

On the following pages is the Probation Department's formal response to this report, including the flow chart referenced in item No. 6 above.



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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**GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA**

Chief Probation Officer

March 4, 2026

TO: Eric Bates, Interim Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa   
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'S  
ASSESSMENT OF A SAMPLE OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT DETENTION REPORTS**

On February 2, 2026, we received a validation draft of the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report titled, Assessment of a Sample of Los Angeles County Probation Department Detention Reports (Report). The Report assessed a total of 135 detention reports prepared in the month of January 2025. The report makes seven recommendations, all of which the Department has either already implemented or is in the process of implementing. The Department completely agrees with the OIG's statement that "while it may be difficult to make all detention decisions purely objective, reducing the subjectivity in decisions is of paramount importance to ensure equal protection under the laws and fundamental principles of fairness."

Since receiving the validation draft, we have been collaborating with personnel from the OIG to make sure the information provided in the report is accurate, up to date and placed into context. The OIG's willingness to meet to discuss, listen to our feedback, and adopt some of our suggestions prior to publishing the final report is greatly appreciated. This process also serves as an example of how effective oversight should function to have the most impact on improving policies and protocols within the Department while simultaneously promoting transparency and accountability.

Because the OIG has published our specific responses to the recommendations in the Report, they will not be reiterated here except to note that the workflow chart referenced in our response to recommendation no. 6 is attached hereto for the public's reference

Attachment

GVR:RA:dt

# INTAKE AND DETENTION CONTROL WORKFLOW

