

WHAT IS DEJ?

Deferred Entry of Judgment, or DEJ, is an alternative to the juvenile delinquency process and was passed by California voters in March 2000 as part of Proposition 21. DEJ allows a minor charged with at least one felony to become eligible for a probation program. If the minor admits the charges and **successfully completes** DEJ probation, the Juvenile Court dismisses the case and seals the minor's arrest and court records. The arrest is deemed never to have occurred.



Attorney: _____

Address: _____

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Notes:



**SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, COUNTY
OF ORANGE
JUVENILE COURT**

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, COUNTY
OF ORANGE
JUVENILE COURT**

DEFERRED ENTRY OF JUDGMENT



A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

HOW DOES DEJ WORK?

Proposition 21 established basic eligibility criteria for DEJ. If the minor meets these criteria, the minor then attends a suitability hearing to determine whether the minor would benefit from DEJ.

If the minor is found suitable for DEJ, the minor must **admit to all charges**. The minor and parent sign a contract agreeing to the terms of probation. The minor will return to Court for progress review hearings to determine whether the minor is “on track” with community service requirements and other terms of probation. Once the minor completes the program requirements and pays restitution, no further progress hearings are required.

If the minor has successfully completed DEJ probation, the Court will **terminate DEJ, order the minor’s admission withdrawn, dismiss the case, seal the minor’s records, and deem the arrest never to have occurred**.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DEJ?

- Provides immediate consequences for the minor’s actions and behavior;
- Reduces time spent in the juvenile delinquency process;
- Avoids Juvenile Hall;
- Requires fewer court appearances;
- Faster resolution of the case;
- Program support from the District Attorney, defense attorney, probation officer, and Court;
- **Sealed Court, probation, and law enforcement records;**
- **Upon successful completion of DEJ probation, the arrest for the offenses will be considered to NEVER have occurred.**

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF PROBATION?

Typical requirements include:

- Obey all rules and regulations of your Probation Officer
- Attend school regularly
- Complete community service
- Pay restitution, with the right to a restitution hearing
- Submit to search and seizure, with or without a warrant
- Abide by curfew
- Violate no laws



WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD FAILS DEJ?

If new criminal charges are filed and found to be true, or the minor does not make sufficient progress, then DEJ will be terminated and the minor will be declared a ward of the Juvenile Court.