



Educational.

## Why we started

Together with the Women’s Lawyers Alliance and funding and support from the Superior Court of California, the Northern California Service League, now the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, opened the Children’s Waiting Rooms (CWR) in 1991. The CWR evolved out of concern for children who must accompany their parents to court and are subject to its harsh environment. This was the first waiting room of its type in the nation.

The rooms provide free nurturing unlicensed childcare services in a safe and positive environment, separating children from the trauma of the courtroom environment and early exposure to the justice system.



Center on Juvenile  
and Criminal Justice

CJCJ is a non-profit nonpartisan organization whose mission is to reduce society’s reliance on incarceration as a solution to social problems.

In pursuit of this mission, CJCJ provides direct services, technical assistance, and policy analyses that work in unison to promote a balanced and humane criminal justice system designed to reduce incarceration and enhance long-term public safety.

In 2012, the agency merged with the San Francisco-based Northern California Service League (NCSL), a 64-year-old agency providing high-quality community-based reentry services to formerly incarcerated individuals.

### Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

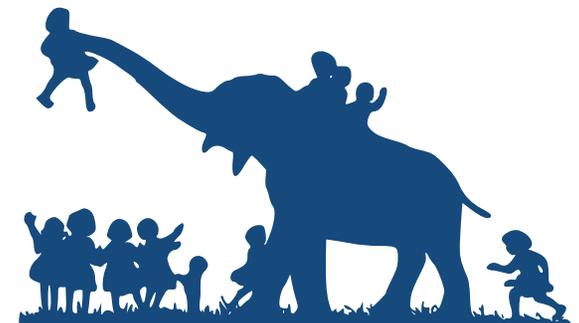
40 Boardman Place  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 621-5661  
[www.cjcj.org](http://www.cjcj.org)

# Children’s Waiting Rooms

A safe and positive  
environment for children

## Keeping Children Safe!

### San Francisco Hall of Justice and Civil Courthouse



# You can help

## Volunteers

The essence of the Children's Waiting Rooms is its volunteers. Dedicated, mature people who are passionate about working with children are always appreciated.

## Donations

The Children's Waiting Rooms rely on monetary contributions for staffing and programmatic purposes. Toys, games, and school supplies are also needed on an on-going basis.

*If you wish to volunteer or make a donation, please come visit the Children's Waiting Rooms during regular hours of operation to learn more. Thank you.*

## Locations

Hall of Justice, Room 106  
850 Bryant Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 553-9377

Civil Courthouse, Room 111  
400 McAllister Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 703-0255

## Child and Family Visits

Through the specialized waiting room in San Francisco County Jail #4, CJCJ manages and facilitates family visits between children and their incarcerated fathers, for inmates in Jails #3 and #4.

Visits are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and on Fridays from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.



*"It was a huge, huge, huge worry off my mind. The facility was clean and safe. If it wasn't great, I wouldn't have brought her back the next day."*

~ Parent

## Policies

A professional childcare supervisor, a childcare specialist, and carefully screened volunteers encourage children to engage in activities that strengthen skills, both academically and physically.

The Civil Courthouse waiting room has a capacity of 15 children, and the Hall of Justice waiting room has a capacity of 8 children at any given time.

This is a free service geared towards children of low and moderate-income families, for parents who have business in the building or affiliated courts.

**Parents must register the child with the waiting room staff upon arrival and must remain in the building during the visit.**

Parents should check in on their child during every break. Parents must inform waiting room staff of their whereabouts and if relocating within the courthouse.

Adults must always inform staff if their child has any special needs or allergies.

**The person that registers the child is the only individual who is authorized to pick up the child.**

Authorized individuals should pick up their children promptly before noon and before 4:30pm.

Accompanying adults are expected to change diapered children before leaving the room, and provide diapers in case of emergency.

**In case of an evacuation, the Civil Courthouse waiting room will assemble at the Civic Center Plaza Playground, and the Hall of Justice waiting room will assemble at Bryant and Gilbert Streets.**

## Children's Waiting Room Hours

**Monday through Friday**

**8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, excluding holidays**