



Principal Child Support Attorney

San Joaquin County Employment Opportunity

Mission Statement
Partnering with parents to develop cooperative family relationships and shared responsibilities.

Human Resources
44 N. San Joaquin Street
Third Floor, Suite 330
Stockton, California 95202
Phone: (209) 468-3370

Recruitment Announcement
0123-RL2005-01

Equal Opportunity Employer

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About the position

The San Joaquin County Department of Child Support Services is seeking a Principal Child Support Attorney to provide leadership to the Department of Child Support Services Legal Division. The Principal Attorney will supervise, mentor, manage and present cases in court and support the professional and support staff of the unit. The Principal Child Support Attorney serves as the Child Support Services liaison between the department, courts, law enforcement, attorneys and other parties or public agencies, and will provide complex legal support to the Director of Child Support Services and department management.

About the department

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is responsible for establishing paternity and establishing and enforcing child and medical support orders. The department collects and accounts for child support payments under the Title IV-D program. Last year, the department collected over \$63 million and served over 33,000 children.

DCSS serves the public by ensuring that children receive the financial support to which they are legally entitled. DCSS is committed to providing family-centered services. DCSS values diversity, team work and respect and courtesy to all.

The department is staffed with 197 employees consisting of attorneys, professional and para- professional staff, and clerical support. For the current fiscal year, the department is administering a budget of \$22.5 million.

VISION STATEMENT



To contribute to a world where each child receives the financial and emotional support needed to become successful members of our community and to be a gateway to family centered services and a bridge to community resources utilizing our dynamic and highly skilled Child Support professionals.



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 **Make San Joaquin County your home**

Arts, Culture, and Recreation

The arts and culture provide a much-needed respite from everyday worries and the Haggin Museum, San Joaquin County Historical Museum, and Stockton Children's Museum are popular spots.

The Stockton Symphony, San Joaquin County Ballet, and Stockton Civic Theater provide important experiences for children and adults. The multi-cultural community offers a diversity of views and opinions in its art and culture, providing a wealth of knowledge about past and present on canvas and stage.

Over 75 languages are spoken within the region and there is richness in the blending of cultures and ways that creates an air of celebration about individual customs, foods and cultures.

San Joaquin County government provides nine community parks for boating, camping, and picnicking, swimming and organized sports. Annual family events include the Asparagus Festival, attended by thousands of fun-seekers from the County and beyond.

Individual cities and communities provide a host of other opportunities, from Lodi Lake Park and Nature Area to the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve. The County-owned and operated Micke Grove Park offers a zoo, rides and a historical museum to delight both children and adults. The San Joaquin Delta is one of the area's best kept secrets and offers some of the best boating in the state: more than 1,000 miles of waterways stretching from the Stockton Harbor to north of Sacramento and offering access to the San Francisco Bay.



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Education

From preschool to higher education, the County has it covered with an abundant array of public or private opportunities to learn and grow. The University of the Pacific, California State University, Stanislaus-Stockton Center, Humphreys College and Law School, National University, and the San Joaquin Delta Community College offer a wide variety of choices for educational opportunities. The County's 17 school districts provide families with a wide choice for children's educational development.



Agriculture

The county is one of the most agriculturally rich regions in California. Grapes are the leading commodity, with 98,000 bearing acres, much of that in wine grapes. Over 85 wineries within the Lodi Appellation offer opportunities for tasting and special events.

Almonds, walnuts, tomatoes and cherries round out the top crops, with an abundance of other produce. Weekly farmers markets throughout the county offer a cornucopia of fresh fruit and vegetables. Fruit stands and pick-your-own produce farms dot the countryside.

Housing

Housing is plentiful in San Joaquin County and is affordable when compared to other nearby areas. Housing ranges from new developments to historic homes found mostly in central Stockton and downtown Lodi. San Joaquin County is a place where families can grow, learn, and experience the nature and beauty of the California landscape while benefiting from the unique opportunities - cultural, recreational, and educational - that the area provides.

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 Typical Duties & Qualifications

Typical Duties

Plans, manages and oversees the daily functions, operations, and activities of the Department of Child Support Services Legal Division; acts as the department's Attorney of Record; serves as the department liaison between the department, courts, law enforcement, attorneys and other parties or public agencies on legal issues related to child support services. Provides legal advice to executive management and may attend County and State meetings on behalf of executive managers.

Interviews, selects and coordinates staff training; will conduct in-service training; ensures that staff remain current on new legislation or other matters which impact their work, and that staff are properly trained on all aspects of mandated compliance including, but not limited to, the Rules of Professional Conduct. And confidentiality rules.

Analyzes and interprets existing and proposed federal and state legislation, regulations, State Department of Child Support Services policies, procedures and other directives to determine their legal impact on department operations; drafts proposed legislative policies within area of responsibility; collaborates with multiple parties to communicate these changes and/or new best management trends/practices; coordinates related training with department staff and other attorneys and stakeholders such as judges and their clerks.

Directs the work and activities of assigned case teams and provides direction regarding case staffing; determines legal approaches and strategy; advises staff on rules of evidence and points of law, and precedent decisions impacting cases; monitors staff cases and ensure that team members utilize ethical methods in the presentation and resolution of cases.

Serves as an expert in litigation for the department; provides consult and direction of the most complex cases, including guidance on preparation and presentation of evidence and arguments at hearings and in trials having complex legal and/or factual issues, serious consequences of error or a high degree of public interest; appears in court to present cases; may oversee depositions and client preparation for court, including training on court processes, procedures and testimony practices; reviews briefs, memoranda, opinions, resolutions and pleadings as necessary.

Minimum Qualifications

Experience: Four (4) years of progressively responsible experiencing practicing family or civil law with emphasis in child support services issues, including two (2) years in a state or county legal office at a level equivalent to San Joaquin County's Child Support Attorney IV and one (1) year of which included supervising attorneys.

AND

License: Membership in the California State Bar is required. Possession of a valid California Driver's License is required.

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DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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Compensation and Benefits

Approximate Annual Salary
\$156,680.13-\$190,445.68

In addition to the base salary, the County offers an excellent benefits plan which includes a county contribution to health insurance, dental and vision insurance plans. Other benefits also offered by the County include:

- 1937 Retirement Act plan with reciprocity with CALPERS.
- 125 Flex Spending Benefits Plan
- 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- 12 days sick leave annually with unlimited accumulation.
- 10 days of vacation leave (15 days after 3 years, 20 days after 10 years, and 23 days after 20 years)
- 10 paid holidays per year
- 10 days administrative leave per year

For further information about our benefits package, please visit the [Benefits page](#).

****Note:** County employees who currently receive a cafeteria plan allowance and subsequently transfer, demote, or promote into the Middle Management represented unit, shall receive the capped contribution amount of the Middle Management unit. New hires into the Middle Management unit after January 16, 2012 are not eligible for Cafeteria Plan Benefits.



Wellness

San Joaquin County is dedicated to providing its employees with a great benefit package and is interested in their overall well-being. Through our SJC Engage wellness program, San Joaquin County employees and eligible dependents are offered support in the way of various workshops, courses, and programs in areas such as Physical and Mental Wellness, Professional Wellness, and Financial Wellness. Employees also enjoy special employee pricing through Perks at Work.

For additional information regarding the wellness program, please click to visit the SJC Engage website:



Application and Selection

The competitive process includes submittal of a completed San Joaquin County Employment application and Supplemental Questionnaire. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a complete application package. If a formal exam process is utilized, qualified applicants will be invited to participate in an oral examination interview which may include a practical exercise. The top-scoring candidates will be referred to the department for a hiring interview. To apply, submit a completed application and supplemental questionnaire on or before the final filing date.

To apply, visit our [webpage](#) or scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera.

Final Filing Date: **Open Until Filled**