

2009-109 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—California Family Court System

The audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information related to child custody cases in the family court system in Sacramento and Marin County Family Courts and, to the extent possible, would include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. For the most recent four-year period, identify, assess, and evaluate the processes the courts use in deciding to use court-appointees, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. The frequency of use of the court-appointees.
 - b. The selection process for court-appointees, including the type of cases that are more likely to have court appointees, the rationale for making appointments, and the type of appointee assigned to cases, such as a mediator, investigator, or evaluator.
3. For a sample of contested custody cases, evaluate and assess the following with respect to the appointment, payment, training, and evaluation of court-appointees to determine whether they adhere to the established process:
 - a. The training requirements, if any, for court-appointees and how the courts ensure those requirements are met.
 - b. The method for setting court-appointee fees and who is responsible for allocating and paying them.
 - c. The process, if any, for parties to object to court-appointees, including any process to request a replacement.
 - d. The process, if any, for evaluating the performance of court-appointees, and whether the courts have any disciplinary authority over court-appointees.
 - e. The process, if any, for receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints against court-appointees.