

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge of Solano County  
Response to 2006-2007 Solano County Grand Jury  
FOUTS SPRINGS YOUTH FACILITIES

**Finding/Recommendation 1:** I have no comment on this finding and its recommendation.

**Finding/Recommendation 2:** Adequate follow-up information is available to the Juvenile Court regarding the minors placed at Fouts from Solano County.

**Finding/Recommendation 3:** The judicial decision to place a minor at Fouts is made on the individual's specific circumstances without regard to the population then at the institution. No one can predict with certainty how many minors the court will place there on any given day.

If the minor cannot be immediately placed due to overcrowding, he must wait at juvenile hall for an opening. It is in the minor's best interest to begin the rehabilitative process as soon as possible. Although Juvenile Hall provides some interventions, they are not as extensive or intense as those available at Fouts.

**Finding/Recommendation 4:** The Juvenile Court is satisfied with the quality of the reports presented by the probation department. The format of the reports has been developed with decades of experience. The court only rarely requires the probation department to submit additional information so the court can make an informed decision about the level of intervention appropriate for an individual minor. The Juvenile Court periodically requests the Probation department to arrange a visit to Fouts for all of the judicial officers and attorneys (both prosecution and defense) to meet with staff and wards.

**Finding/Recommendation 5:** I have no comment on this finding and its recommendation.

**Finding/Recommendation 6:** Fouts offers a necessary level of intervention for the minors of Solano County. Although successful intervention while the minor lives at home seems to most strengthen the ability of the minor's family to provide an appropriate level of parenting, many minors need intense interventions to protect community safety before treatment in the community can begin. Fouts offers such interventions. Without its being available, the court is left with the poor choice of either committing a minor who could benefit from probation interventions to the Department of Juvenile Justice or taking a higher than appropriate risk with community safety to provide such probation services.