

CWDS Courts Overview

September 2020



CWDS | Child Welfare Digital Services

Stakeholders:

- County & Tribal Child Welfare
- County & Tribal Courts
- Children and Families
- County Counsels
- Attorneys for all Parties
- Core County identified representatives from Shasta, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Santa Clara, San Bernardino, Riverside and Alameda Counties within Child Welfare, Judges, Court Information Officers and County Counsel offices.



Overview:

- Court Processing will utilize available technologies to facilitate information sharing between more parties.
- Courts Processing will include exchanging data and documents in real-time or near real-time mode (i.e. a user portal and an interface with Courts Case Management Systems).
- Court Processing will introduce new functionality while meeting mandated data and policy requirements.
- Court Processing will introduce modern forms and template management to accommodate local courts.
- Courts Processing will maintain manual processes to accommodate the migration to a data exchange and for contingency planning.

Court Processing Goals:

- Efficiently and accurately create, complete and file all court documents in alignment with court timelines, the law and State/Federal policy in order to improve timely permanency.
 - Feature Ideas: automation of information, filing via interface, links to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) and policies.
- Reduce paper dependency by utilizing available technology in order to improve access to court information and timely permanency.
 - Feature Ideas: parent and child portals, interface with court, document management within CARES.

Court Processing Goals

- Enable the user to track due dates, tasks and legal timelines in order to assist the user in managing their time efficiently.
 - Feature Ideas: alerts for new tasks, alerts to supervisor that a court document is ready for review, dashboards to view timelines and due dates, shared calendar with court dates and due dates automatically added.
- Allow a user to extract data related to court system performance and court user performance in order to support Continuous Quality Improvement efforts.
 - Feature Ideas: ability to track reasons for continuances, report timeliness, rulings made by the court that are contrary to Child Welfare recommendations, document revision logs prior to court submission.

Court Processing Benefits:

- Shorter permanency timelines for families under court supervision.
- Reduction in court continuances based on child welfare worker error.
- Reduces child welfare worker office time, allowing for additional face to face client time.
- Allows more stakeholders to participate in the Dependency Court process via portal technology.

Court Processing Work In Progress:

- Blueprinting
 - Documenting the business process flow.
 - Planning paths for paper submission of documents and interface transactions.
- Researching the applicable policies and laws (CDSS policy) for each court building block with the blueprint.
- Beginning outreach and engagement with the court core counties to learn about county variance in court work, pain points, opportunities and feature ideas.

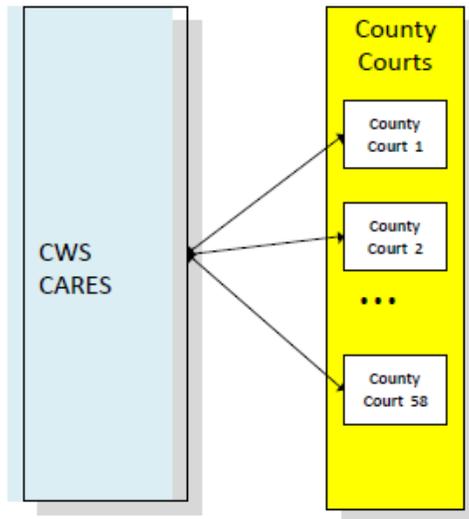
Court Interface



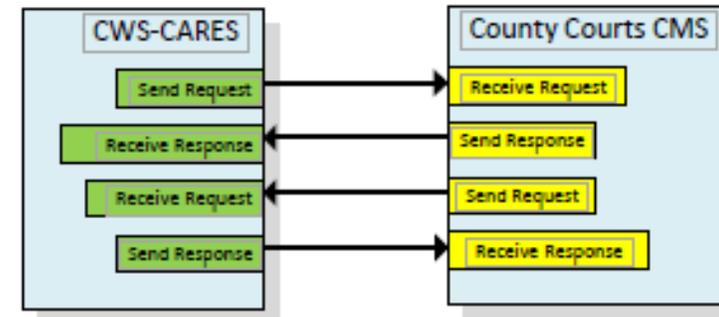
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Courts Interface Overview:

CWS-CARES Courts Systems Interface



...And zoom in on one Court



- Can send and receive documents
- Uses modern interface technology

Courts Interface Research to Date:

- Developed a draft functional specification document.
- Developed a draft technical specification document.
- Responded to the National Open Court Data Standards (NODS) request for public comment on dependency data elements.
- Aligned our functional specification document to include NODS data elements and provided our functional specifications to NODS for consideration.

ID	Operation	Description
1	Send Juvenile Dependency Filing from CWS-CARES to Court CMS	The CW worker uses CWS-CARES to send a petition and supporting documentation to the court, to request that it find that the child falls within the Welfare and Institutions Code 300.
2	Receive court orders from Court CMS	This interface allows the Courts to issue findings and orders after a hearing (for which a CW worker submitted a report) containing proposed statutory findings, orders, and attachments.
3	Send a Court Report from CWS-CARES to Court CMS	This interface allows a CW worker to submit a report containing proposed findings and orders and attachments to the Courts, prior to the hearing.
4	Receive Notification from Courts	This interface allows the Court CMS to issue notifications to provide information in lieu of a hearing, appearance or an order.
5	Send response to the court's notification	This interface allows the CW Worker to submit information in response to the Court Notification.
6	Receive Calendar Data from Courts	This interface allows the courts to send court hearing data to CWS-CARES. Calendar data includes case, hearing type, hearing date and time, and hearing location to CWS for all future juvenile dependency hearing dates, dates set, dates modified, dates vacated. This exchange will help CWS meet the federal requirement to maintain hearing data.
7	Send Participant Data	This interface allows a CW worker to send changes and deletions to court case participant information for juvenile dependency cases. Changes and deletions to court case participant information are sent by CWS-CARES to the Court CMS for juvenile dependency cases.
8	Receive Participant Data	This interface allows CWS-CARES to receive additions, changes and deletions to court case participant information for juvenile dependency cases from the Court CMS.
9	Send a Request for Hearing Date with Recommended Calendar Event Time	CWS-CARES CW Worker requests a hearing date from the court for a hearing. Request can include date and time requested and will include the court case/participant number. This interface will also support a request for a pre-filing hearing, when no case exists yet.

County Court Requirements:

- Counties interested in using the interface must meet the following requirements:
 - Must be using an automated court system.
 - Can identify a single point of contact (SPOC) for all future CWS-CARES communication and coordination needs.
 - Can commit resources to accomplish tasks in accordance with CWS-CARES project needs.
- CWS-CARES will provide a manual courts interface for counties that don't meet the requirements.

County Court Interface Rollout Options:

- Each county court interface will require setup and testing.
- The project anticipates that the interface rollout will be conducted based on county readiness, beginning with the initial pilot counties.
- A county court can choose to either;
 - Opt-in for an automated interface during one of the rollout waves
 - County meets the requirements.
 - Will implement at Go-Live and will continue post Go-Live in Dev/Ops.
 - Choose to stay with using the manual method;
 - County will use the manual courts functionality.
 - County will need to defer efforts necessary for implementing interface until their dependency court is ready.

Questions?

