



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

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Item Number: 5.f

MEETING DATE: 12/15/2025

DEPARTMENT:

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Rebekah Mojica

SUBJECT:

Eligibility Process for Public Defender Services: Discussion and Direction on Procedures and Suggested Form

AGENDA SECTION:

REGULAR AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Establishing a clear eligibility process for Public Defender services ensures that defendants receive appropriate representation and that the County maintains consistent and equitable standards. The Committee will review information obtained from other counties regarding their eligibility procedures, as well as a suggested form and policy for local implementation. The discussion will include criteria for eligibility, documentation requirements, and procedural steps for determination. The Committee may provide direction to staff to finalize or implement the eligibility process, ensuring it aligns with best practices, legal requirements, and program objectives.

The attachments include other financial eligibility forms from the Judicial Council of California, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Solano, and San Joaquin Counties.

The San Benito draft pulls primarily from Santa Cruz County and the Judicial Council form.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Committee review the proposed eligibility process and forms and provide direction to staff on next steps for implementation.

ATTACHMENTS:

[San Benito Financial Eligibility Form \(For Committee Discussion\)](#)
[Judicial Council of CA - CR 105 Defendants Financial Statement](#)

SUPCR - 1127 (Santa Cruz) Financial Eligibility
Probation Financial Declaration (SLO)
Defendants Financial Statement Release form (Solano)
Financial-Declaration (San Joaquin)