Under a new California law (enacted by Senate Bill 1290), counties are no longer allowed to collect fees that were previously charged to the parents of youth for their child’s involvement in the juvenile delinquency system. This law goes into effect on January 1, 2021.

What cannot be collected?

Under the new law, counties must end collections and discharge all fees previously charged for juvenile:

- Detention: Fees for food, clothing, personal supplies, or medical care in juvenile hall or any other detention facility
- Representation Fees for public defender or court-appointed lawyer
- Electronic monitoring: Fees for ankle monitors or any GPS tracking device
- Probation and home supervision: Fees for the period of probation monitoring
- Drug testing: Fees for court-ordered drug testing and results

 Counties have not been permitted to establish new juvenile delinquency system fee debt since January 1, 2018, as a result of the enactment of Senate Bill 190.

If you were recently charged any of these fees or have questions about a bill you got from the county, contact the county department that sent the bill and the youth’s public defender or legal representative immediately.

What can still be charged?

Counties can still charge and collect fees for:

- Restitution: Payment to crime victims
- Restitution fines: Fixed amount to a state restitution fund

NOTE: Senate Bill 1290 also ended the collection of fees charged to youth 21 and under in the criminal (adult) system for home detention, drug testing, and electronic monitoring.