

CHAPTER 8
PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING
APPROPRIATE CASELOADS FOR
CHILDREN’S COUNSEL

Rule 6.8.1

Determining Appropriate Caseloads for Children’s Counsel

The attorney for the child/youth must have a caseload that allows the attorney to perform the full range of duties required by Welfare and Institutions Code section 317, subdivision (e), and California Rules of Court, rule 5.660, and to otherwise adequately counsel and represent each child/youth.

All efforts must be made to support attorneys who provide legal representation to children and nonminor dependents in dependency court and to keep caseloads manageable. Supervisors must monitor caseloads to ensure that adjustments are made when needed to provide competent, responsive representation to all clients. Except in extraordinary circumstances, caseloads for attorneys representing children and nonminor dependents will not exceed 60% of the caseload standards suggested by the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. In the event extraordinary circumstances require higher caseloads, immediate steps will be taken to reduce the caseload numbers within 90 days.

(Adopted 1/1/2002; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2016; Rev. 1/1/2017; Rev. 1/1/2018)