



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Yolo County Public Defender's Office Hosts Clothing Drive

**(Woodland, CA)** – The Yolo County Public Defender's Office's Social Work Program would like to announce a used clothing drive from December 1 through March 31 to help benefit indigent clients as they transition from Yolo County jail back into the community. The Public Defender's Office is currently requesting donations of gently used clothing, especially pants and jackets, as well as new underwear and socks. In addition to clothing items, used backpacks/purses, belts, wallets, hats, and sleeping bags are welcome as well as hotel toiletries and other hygiene products.

Serving time in county jail is a hardship for anyone, but for those who have little to no resources, are homeless, or suffer from mental illness, resuming life after an incarceration can be particularly challenging. Aside from being disconnected from family and community services, these individuals' belongings or personal property are often lost or stolen, so at time of release, they are commonly in a worse position than when first arrested and booked into custody.

To ease this transition from jail back into the community, the Public Defender's Office's Social Work Program has established a post-release clothing closet. The purpose of this clothing closet is to provide a fresh pair of clothing to indigent clients upon their release from custody.

Any property that is on an individual's person at the time of booking at county jail is sealed in a plastic bag for the duration of the individual's incarceration. For a person who struggles with homelessness and has soiled or wet clothing, this means that his/her property will become stale, malodorous, or even moldy while he/she remains in-custody. Upon his/her release, this is what the individual must dress out into and wear into the community. Additionally, some individuals are arrested and booked into jail during summer and if released a few months later, in fall or winter, their clothes are inadequate for the current weather conditions.

After release from jail, indigent individuals have many tasks at hand – appointments to re-establish medical care, picking up prescribed medication, reconnecting with family, meetings with future landlords/employers, etc.

“By providing clothing through this program, the hope is that individuals will be safe and prepared for current weather conditions as well as feel more clean, confident, and presentable as they resume their lives in our community,” said Yolo County Public Defender Tracie Olson.

Donated items can be dropped off at the lobby of the Public Defender's Office, located at 814 North Street in Woodland, Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as well as Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the Public Defender Social Worker Program at (530) 666-8165, ext. 9954. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

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