

## Sobering Facts: Substance Abuse Affects All of Us

The substance abuse crisis is hitting our communities hard. While the overall opioid overdose rate in Del Norte County is on the decline, there are high rates of other drug and alcohol abuse in our county. Families are struggling, children are being removed, and increasingly families are torn apart by the cycle of substance abuse.

We understand that families heal within communities so our program aims to heal the whole family by actively engaging communities, drawing upon an extended family support team, preserving dignity and promoting respect, employing a therapeutic model, and focusing on returning to harmony.

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## Joint Family Wellness Court

### About Us

In response to the opioid epidemic in Del Norte County, the Del Norte Superior Court and the Yurok Tribal Court, through a joint powers agreement, have created the Joint Family Wellness Court as alternative to the juvenile dependency system. The Joint Family Wellness Court is presided over by two judges—a tribal court judge and a state court judge—and operates under California state law, Federal law, and Yurok tribal law. The Joint Family Wellness Court embraces components of tribal healing to wellness and collaborative court approaches, and is informed by Yurok traditions, culture, and Puhlik-la Justice. What we believe is that through introspection, reflection, and connection, we heal ourselves and each other. Wellness is achieved through a holistic approach to do what is right with the knowledge that together we will become stronger and more resilient to support the next generation.



## Joint Family Wellness Court A Collaboration between the Del Norte Superior Court and Yurok Tribal Court

**WE'RE CHANGING A  
SYSTEM IN ORDER TO:**

**ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES OF  
ADDICTION & CHILD  
NEGLECT AND ABUSE**

**WORK AND LEARN  
TOGETHER**

**LEVERAGE ALL POSSIBLE  
RESOURCES**

**BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR  
BETTER RESULTS FOR OUR  
FAMILIES**



### Court's Vision

One strong, healthy community where children are safe and families thrive because parents are provided a path to recover, heal, and grow.

### Court's Mission

To operate a joint jurisdictional family dependency drug court that empowers families to make healthy decisions and breaks the cycle of addiction and child abuse & neglect through:

- A coordinated team approach;
- Comprehensive, culturally competent services;
- Frequent monitoring; and
- Building a support system for family recovery and child well-being.

### Court's Inherent Powers

The Court uses its inherent powers derived from authority delegated by the Yurok Tribal Council and Article IV of the California Constitution to provide an independent, culturally sensitive judicial forum, with fair processes for all people who appear before the Court.

### Who's Eligible?

Yurok families that have Family Dependency cases in the Del Norte Superior Court.

### Court's Four Phases

1. *Trust*: Orientation, Assessments, Stabilization
2. *Belonging*: Healthy Connections, Education, Service Planning
3. *Settling Up*: Taking Responsibility, Giving Back, and Feedback
4. *Generativity*: Maintenance and Transition to Lifelong Healing

### Court Incorporates Components of:

- ❖ Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts  
<http://www.wellnesscourts.org/tribal-key-components/index.cfm>
- ❖ California Collaborative Courts  
<https://www.ca2c.org/defining-drug-courts-ten-key-components/>  
➤ Problem-Solving Courts  
<https://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Alternative-Dockets/Problem-Solving-Courts/Home.aspx>

### Expectations for Families

- Make a family wellness plan
- Follow through with your wellness plan
- Attend meetings with your family wellness team
- Attend court hearings
- Complete frequent drug screenings
- Participate in substance use treatment
- Make a Life Change Plan
- Give back to the community
- Commencement (Graduation)

## Our Justice Approach Built on Six Principles

### Joint Family Wellness Court

Returning to Harmony-Healing Whole Family	Dignity and Promoting Respect
Peer/Extended Family Support Team Model	Therapeutic Model with Opportunities for Self-Healing
Culturally appropriate strategies and interventions	Community Engagement Families Heal Within Communities