



Judiciary of Guam

Administrative Office of the Courts
Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu. 96910
Tel: (671) 475-3544



HON. ROBERT J. TORRES
CHIEF JUSTICE

HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III
PRESIDING JUDGE

DANIELLE T. ROSETE, ESQ.
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 9, 2026

New Judiciary Report Outlines Path to Strengthen Youth Outcomes

GUAM AMONG FIVE JURISDICTIONS AWARDED FUNDING TO ADVANCE NEXT-PHASE REFORM

(Hagåtña) Following a multi-agency kickoff meeting held Friday, January 9, the Judiciary of Guam formally released the **Juvenile Justice Reform Collaborative: Report and Recommendations**, a comprehensive review of Guam's juvenile justice system that calls for clearer standards, stronger coordination, and modernized practices across youth-serving agencies.

Led by Chief Justice Robert J. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Joshua F. Tenorio, the report reflects a year of cross-agency work to address gaps affecting families, schools, law enforcement, and the broader community. The Collaborative—reactivated in 2024 to address post-pandemic challenges—brought together five subcommittees focusing on data, detention, family engagement, dual-status youth, and statutory reform. Their findings form the foundation of the recommendations released today.

“The Collaborative has taken a hard and honest look at the strengths and limitations of our current system,” Chief Justice Torres and Lt. Governor Tenorio said in the report's joint message. *“The findings reflect the dedication of the many professionals who work every day with our island's youth—judges, probation officers, teachers, social workers, behavioral health providers, law enforcement officers, and community advocates.”*

Current Landscape and System Gaps

The report documents the broad network of services available to Guam's youth—from school-based support and behavioral health programs to treatment courts and community-based engagement—while also identifying barriers that limit consistent access and outcomes. These include transportation and identification challenges, fragmented data systems, and the lack of a centralized structure to support consistent diversion practices across agencies.

Key Recommendations

To strengthen coordination and improve outcomes, the report recommends authorizing multi-agency data sharing, joining the Interstate Compact for Juveniles to align Guam with national supervision standards, and reactivating the LaniKate Protehi Y Famagu'on-ta Task Force. Additional recommendations include modernizing the Family Court structure, establishing clearer detention and diversion standards, expanding alternative dispositions and restorative

practices, and adopting the Sequential Intercept Model to promote earlier and more consistent opportunities for diversion.

National Recognition and Next Steps

The Judiciary also announced that Guam was selected through a competitive national process as one of only five court jurisdictions to receive [State Justice Institute funding](#) for the next phase of system improvement. This work will continue in partnership with the Effective Justice for Young People Training and Technical Assistance Collaborative (TTAC) as implementation moves forward.

“While the report identifies areas in urgent need of reform, it also reflects what is possible when institutions commit to working together,” the Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor said. *“Strengthening the systems that support our youth strengthens the future of our island.”*

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