Parental Liability for Juvenile Matters

**Parental Liability for Costs and Fees/Fines**

*Welfare and Institution Code section 903(a) The father, mother, spouse, or other person liable for the support of a minor, the estate of the person, and the estate of the minor, shall be liable for the reasonable costs of support of the minor while the minor is placed, or detained in, or committed to, any institution or other place pursuant to Section 625 or pursuant to Section 625 unless, at the detention hearing, the juvenile court determines that detention of the minor should be continued, the petition for the offense for which the minor is detained is subsequently sustained, or the minor agrees to a program of supervision pursuant to Section* *654. The liability of these persons and estates shall be a joint and several liabilities.*

**Parental Liability for Costs of Support/Detention**

Section 903 of the Welfare and Institutions Codes allows Recovery and Reimbursement to charge the parent(s) or other responsible persons, for the reasonable costs of support, while the minor is placed, or detained in, or committed to, any institution or other place pursuant to an order of the Juvenile Court. This means that ***EACH*** parent is separately and jointly responsible for payment until paid in full. There is no division on who pays.

**Parental Liability for Legal Services**

Section 903.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code states that a parent(s) or other responsible persons shall be liable for costs to the County for legal services rendered to the minor pursuant to an order of the Juvenile Court.