

# CARE Act Program

## Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Act (CARE Act)

A new framework to connect people with mental health and substance use disorders to voluntary treatment through a civil court process. Participants can receive many kinds of support to promote their recovery and well-being, which may include counseling, medication, housing options, social services, and other resources.

Coming to Sacramento County December 1, 2024



### Who is eligible to participate?

The CARE program is for participants who are:

- 18 years or age of order.
- Diagnosed with schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders.
- Not stabilized with on-going voluntary treatment.
- Unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision.



### Who can file a petition?

- The participant.
- An adult person who lives with the participant.
- A spouse or registered domestic partner, parent, grandparent, adult sibling, or adult child of the participant.
- A person who stands in the place of a parent to the participant.
- The director of a hospital in which the participant is or was recently hospitalized.
- The director of a public or charitable organization, who has provided or is currently providing behavioral health services to the participant.
- A licensed behavioral health professional, who has supervised the treatment of the participant for mental illness.



### How does the CARE process work?

- The process begins when an eligible person files a CARE Act petition.
- A judge decides if the person meets criteria and is eligible for treatment.
- A judge orders the County Behavioral Health Agency to investigate and submit a report that determines if the participant meets criteria.
- A CARE agreement or CARE plan is created based on the participant's needs.
- Participant may participate in CARE agreement or CARE plan for up to 24 months for on-going treatment, supportive services, and housing in the community.

To learn more,  
Visit California Courts at  
<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/care-act/forms>



## QUESTIONS?

Contact Self-Help at 916-874-1421.

**Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Closed Thursday 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Email: [civilselfhelp@saccourt.ca.gov](mailto:civilselfhelp@saccourt.ca.gov)

**Location:**

813 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Navigate CARE  
Act Resource Center  
<https://care-act.org/>

