

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 of age or older.
- 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?

Petitioners must be 18 years or older and fit one of the following categories:

- A person who lives with the respondent.
- A spouse or registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent of the respondent.
- A person who stands in the place of a parent to the respondent.
- The director of a hospital, or their designee, in which the respondent is hospitalized.
- The director of a public or charitable agency, or their designee, who has within the last 30 days provided or who is currently providing behavioral health services to the respondent or in whose institution the respondent resides.
- A licensed behavioral health professional, or their designee, who is or has been supervising the treatment of or treating the respondent for mental illness within the last 30 days.
- The director of a county behavioral health agency, or their designee, of the county where the respondent resides or is found.
- A first responder who has had repeated interactions with the respondent.
- A judge of a tribal court located in California, or their designee.
- The respondent.

Note: After the initial appearance, the petitioner will be replaced by the director of county behavioral health.



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 or 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

Location:

813 6th Street, Room 117
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

