

CARE Court: Overview

CARE (Community Assistance,
Recovery, and Empowerment)

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What is CARE Court?

CARE Court is a framework to deliver mental health and substance use disorder services to the most severely impaired community members through participation in a civil court process and is intended to prevent more restrictive conservatorships and incarceration.

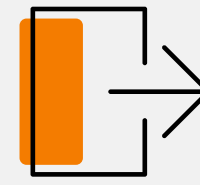
CARE Court, enacted through SB1381, was passed by the legislature on August 31, 2022 and was signed by the Governor on September 14, 2022.

Criteria for Participation

To be eligible, a person must meet the following criteria:

- Is 18 years of age or older.
- Is currently experiencing a severe mental illness, as described, and has a diagnosis identified in the disorder class: schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, as defined in the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- Is not clinically stabilized in on-going voluntary treatment.
- At least one of the following is true:
 - The person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision and the person's condition is substantially deteriorating.
 - The person is in need of services and supports in order to prevent a relapse or deterioration that would be likely to result in grave disability or serious harm to the person or others, as defined in Section 5150.
- Participation in a CARE plan or CARE agreement would be the least restrictive alternative necessary to ensure the person's recovery and stability.
- It is likely that the person will benefit from participation in a CARE plan or CARE agreement.

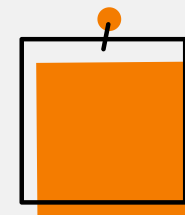
CARE Court Process



Referral



Clinical Evaluation



CARE Plan



Support



Success

CARE Court Implementation

October 2023

First cohort of counties will implement CARE Courts

The first cohort of counties (Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and San Francisco) will be required to implement the CARE Act by October 1, 2023.

October 2024

Remaining counties will implement CARE Courts

All remaining counties will begin implementation by October 1, 2024, unless a county is granted additional time by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Counties may not opt-out.

CARE Court Challenges

01

Funding (Start up and ongoing costs; commercial insurance reimbursement)

02

Implementation (Development of new processes, roles and systems; housing deficits; workforce concerns)

03

Advocate concerns (civil and disability rights groups)
