



CARE Act Quick Guide for Medical and Behavioral Health Providers

What is CARE

The CARE Act is a way to allow individuals (“petitioners”) to request court-ordered **treatment, services, support, and a housing plan** for certain people 18+ who have **untreated schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder** and who meet certain health, safety, and other [eligibility criteria](#).

Who Can File

(see form [CARE-100](#) for full list)

- Hospital Director or designee (such as Social Worker)
- CBO director or designee (such as Case Manager)
- Licensed Behavioral Health professional
- First responder (including a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, EMT, mobile crisis response worker, or homeless outreach worker)

County Implementation Timeline

Currently, CARE petitions may be filed in the counties of Glenn, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. Petitions must be filed in the county in which the respondent resides, is found, or is facing criminal or civil proceedings. **Petitions may not be filed in any of the remaining 50 counties until their implementation date of December 1, 2024.**

Petition Process Overview

Petitioners fill out the [CARE-100](#) on the Judicial Council website, and submit to specified [CARE Court location](#) in each specific County. **NOTE:** Information provided on the form should enable the judge to make an initial determination that the individual may be eligible for CARE and how best to contact and locate them. Proof of eligibility must be submitted in the form of a [Mental Health Declaration Form \(CARE-101\)](#) and/or evidence that the respondent was detained for at least two periods of intensive treatment, with the most recent period being within the past 60 days.

- Once the petition is filed and reviewed, the court will determine if the individual is (or may be) eligible and schedule an initial appearance. If the court finds the individual ineligible, the court may dismiss the case.
- Petitioners or their delegates must attend the initial hearing; however, the **petitioner will be relieved and replaced** by the county behavioral health director as substitute petitioner.

Additional Resources

- [CalHHS CARE Act Website](#)
- [Judicial Council CARE Act Website](#)
- [CARE Act Fact Sheet](#)
- [CARE Act Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [CARE Act Proceedings Process Flowchart](#)