



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARE Act Now Live in Fresno County

For More Information, Contact:

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The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Program is now active in Fresno County, offering a new court resource for Mental Health. Effective December 1, 2024. As of Monday, December 2nd, CARE Act petitions are accepted at the Fresno Superior Court's B.F. Sisk Courthouse, third floor, Probate Clerk's Office. All CARE Act cases will be assigned to the Collaborative Courts Division.

The CARE Act was written into law through Senate Bill 1338, which added Welfare & Institutions Code sections 5970 – 5987 and sets out the general provisions, process, and additional details for the implementation of the CARE Act.

The CARE Act is a way to allow specific people, called "petitioners," to request voluntary treatment, services, support, and a housing plan for people, called "respondents," who have certain untreated severe mental illnesses, specifically schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder.

There is no fee required to file a Petition for CARE Act proceedings. The Fresno Superior Court CARE Act webpage has links to information packets for petitioners (individuals or agency representatives looking to initiate a court proceeding under the CARE Act requirements) and for respondents (the individuals who are the subject of a CARE Act petition). CARE Act petitions, reports and hearings are confidential.

CARE Act proceedings involve assessments and court hearings to determine whether the respondent meets eligibility requirements. The County of Fresno's Department of Behavioral Health is involved in the process. If the respondent meets the standards for CARE eligibility, a CARE agreement or plan may be created and, if approved, ordered by the court.

Assistance is available at our self-help center on the first floor of the B.F. Sisk Courthouse. The self-help center can provide both petitioners and respondents with answers to questions concerning the CARE Act process, forms and legal options.

For more information on CARE Act proceedings in the Fresno Superior Court, links to forms, frequently asked questions and other resources, please visit fresno.courts.ca.gov/care-act

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