

## **CARE Act Resources for Petitioners**

CARE petitions may be filed in the counties of Glenn, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, 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 48 counties until their implementation date of December 1, 2024.** 

## **Petition Process Overview**

- Petitioners must fill out the required forms posted on the Judicial Council website, and petitions may be submitted to the local courts, which may be located at the <u>CARE Act</u> <u>Website Directory</u>.
- When filing a petition, 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 a petition is filed and reviewed, if
  the court finds upon initial examination
  that the petition shows the respondent
  is, or may be, eligible, the court will
  either set an initial appearance within
  14 days if the petition was filed by a
  county behavioral health agency,
  or order a county behavioral health
  agency to investigate if they were not
  the petitioner. If the court finds that
  the petition does not show upon initial
  examination that the respondent is, or
  may be, eligible, the court may dismiss
  the case.

## **Petition Forms**

- How to File the CARE 100
- Petition Form (CARE-100)

- Mental Health Declaration Form (CARE-101)
- Information for Petitioners (CARE-050-INFO)

The following resources provide information on CARE eligibility criteria, CARE process, and assist with the successful completion and filing of petitions. If eligibility criteria is not met or you are interested in alternatives to CARE proceedings, options can be discussed with your county behavioral health agency.

- Calhhs Care Act Website
- CalHHS Information for CARE Act Petitioners
- Judicial Council CARE Act Website
- CARE Act Fact Sheet
- Glossary of CARE Act Terminology
- CARE Act Eligibility Criteria
- CARE Act Proceedings Process Flowchart

Find your local California Court Self-Help
Center to get answers to questions and receive direct support with completing and filing a petition. Self-Help Centers can provide legal information and resources in-person, over the phone, or online to people without a lawyer.