



WHAT

The CARE Act is a **new civil court process** providing community-based mental health services to eligible people. It **prioritizes treatment, housing, and community support.**

WHO

Eligible Californians living with **untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders.**

HOW

A wide range of people can **request an individual to enter the CARE process.** The process will connect eligible individuals with services to support their recovery and stability.



**More
Information**


<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CareCourt>

**Self-Help Center:
707-521-6534**

CARE Act

**Community Assistance,
Recovery and
Empowerment Act**

**Find CARE in
Sonoma
County**



CARE Act Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Act



GOALS

The CARE Act supports a self-determined path to recovery. It is intended to be a process that can be supported and served by existing programs, providing a way for people to stabilize and exit homelessness.



CARE PROCESS

The CARE Act allows specified adults to petition a civil court to begin CARE Act proceedings. They are called "petitioners". The subject of that petition (the person who would benefit from services) is called the "participant" or "respondent." A court review will then determine eligibility. If eligible, the court will work with the participant and their attorney to create a voluntary CARE agreement or court-ordered CARE plan that connects them with services. There will be status review hearings to review progress and challenges. After 12 months, the participant may graduate from the program, or they may continue for another year.



ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis. Homelessness and mental illness alone are not enough to meet eligibility requirements. Some of the criteria include:

- 18 years or older
- A diagnosis of schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders
- Not clinically stabilized in ongoing voluntary treatment
- CARE must be the least restrictive alternative to provide recovery and stability



PETITIONERS

A wide range of people can petition the court for someone to get help. Some examples include:

- Family members
- Health care/social services providers
- First responders
- County behavioral health agency



CARE CONTINUES

After graduating from the CARE process, the participant remains eligible for ongoing treatment, supportive services, and housing in the community to support long-term recovery.

