



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

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*Executive Officer/Clerk
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ventura Superior Court Launches CARE Act Program

The Ventura Superior Court is proud to announce the launch of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Program. Established by Senate Bill 1338, the CARE Act empowers a broad range of persons – family members, behavioral health professionals, licensed clinicians, first responders, public guardians, conservators, and others with close ties to an individual - to petition the court on behalf of a person experiencing debilitating mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia spectrum and psychotic disorders. The CARE Act creates a pathway to connect eligible individuals (called “respondents”) to treatment and services, focusing on long-term recovery through a structured court process.

CARE Act proceedings consist of mental health assessments and court hearings to determine whether a respondent meets the program’s eligibility requirements. Ventura County Behavioral Health evaluates eligibility, coordinates treatment and supportive services, and ensures program standards are met. The Ventura County Public Defender provides legal representation for respondents who cannot afford their own attorney, ensuring their rights are protected throughout the process. If a respondent qualifies, a CARE agreement or plan may be developed and ordered by the court.

Beginning December 1, 2024, CARE Act Petitions will be accepted at the Ventura Hall of Justice and the Oxnard Juvenile Courthouse. Filing a petition is free of charge. CARE Act proceedings will take place each week on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 22 at the Ventura Hall of Justice, located at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009. To enhance accessibility, the CARE Act Program offers remote appearance options for participants unable to attend in person. CARE proceedings are confidential and not open to the public.

Ventura Superior Court’s Self-Help Legal Access Center can assist CARE Act petitioners, respondents, and families through the program. They can receive step-by-step assistance with filing petitions, preparing for hearings, and connecting with additional community resources.

For more information on CARE Act proceedings, links to forms, and other resources, please visit Ventura Superior Court’s CARE Act website at <https://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/care.html>.