



NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: November 23, 2025

NAPA COUNTY JUSTICE PARTNERS IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE RECOVERY AND EMPOWERMENT (CARE) ACT

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF NAPA
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559
www.napa.courts.ca.gov

707-299-1100

Cynthia P. Smith
Presiding Judge

Robert E. Fleshman
Court Executive Officer

NAPA, CA: On September 14, 2022, Governor Newsom signed SB-1338 enacting the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Act (CARE Act). The CARE Act creates a new pathway to deliver mental health and substance use disorder services to the most severely impaired Californians who often suffer in homelessness or incarceration without treatment. The CARE Act is intended to support people living with schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders by providing treatment, services, support and a housing plan.

Beginning November 25, 2024, the Napa County Superior Court—in collaboration with numerous other county justice partners—will begin accepting Petitions to Commence CARE Act proceedings. Petitions may be filed at the Napa Superior Court, Historic Courthouse, located at 825 Brown Street, Napa, CA 94559.

“The Health and Human Service Agency looks forward to engaging with individuals struggling with severe mental health challenges and the positive impact we hope the CARE Act process will have on them and their loved ones”, said Jennifer Yasumoto, Napa County’s director of Health and Human Services. “We are grateful to have wonderful partners in the Public Defender’s Office and the Courts who will work with us in a team-based way to provide individualized care through case plans that prioritize treatment, medication, housing, and case management support. Our collective goal is to support individuals struggling in our community by offering them a path to stability and wellness.”

Kristin Keeley, the Napa County Public Defender added: “CARE Court is a unique system to stabilize those in our community who are struggling with mental illness, and the Napa Public Defender’s Office is excited to see this resource used to help our county residents who are in need. This program is different than other civil mental health commitments because it gives the clients control and a true voice in the treatment they receive. The role of the Public Defender’s Office in Care Court proceedings is to protect the rights and liberties of our clients while at the same time to support clients who are seeking stability, healing, and an exit from homelessness through this unique program.”

“We’re thrilled with our local partnerships and how we continue to work together in collaborative and productive ways to address local and statewide issues such as these”, said Assistant Presiding Judge Scott R.L Young.

Visit the [CARE Act resource page](#) for information on the CARE Act, who qualifies, the process for filing a petition, and FAQs. [Self Help Services](#) will be available to assist CARE Act petitioners, respondents, and families as they navigate the CARE Act process. Self-Help services will also help connect individuals to other available resources in the Napa County community.

CARE Act proceedings will be heard in Department B at the Napa County Superior Court, located at 825 Brown Street, Napa, CA 94559, with remote appearances also available. It should be noted that CARE proceedings are confidential and not open to the public.

For any additional questions, please contact the Court Executive Office at 707-299-1100.