

California **CARE ACT**

New legislation allows family members and others to petition the Court in Riverside County to order behavioral health treatment.



What is the CARE Act?

- The CARE Act is a state law that allows the court to order community-based mental health treatment for those with severe mental health disorders.
- Voluntary treatment, with or without a CARE Plan, is always preferred and is encouraged throughout the CARE Act process.
- The program prioritizes self-autonomy and civil liberties, providing free legal representation to individuals subject to a petition. Forced medication is not part of the program, and individuals are not penalized for non-compliance.
- The CARE Act is designed to help divert individuals from entering into more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration.



Who qualifies for the CARE Act Program?

- Eligible residents are those diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar I disorder (*with psychotic features*) or other psychotic disorders who need supervision to safely live in the community.
- Eligible participants must be 18 years of age or older.



How can I refer my loved one to the CARE Act Program?

- Anyone can call for more information about the CARE Act and referrals, including family, county, and community-based social service providers.
- For more info on the CARE Act program and eligibility, **call 800-499-3008 or visit www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/care-act.**

CALL THE CARES LINE

800-499-3008

