|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | **CONTACT** |
| MONTH XX, 2024 | Name, Title |
|  | Phone |
|  | Email |

**CARE Act in (YOUR COUNTY)**

*The new process connects individuals to treatment, housing, and community support*

(COUNTY), CA— The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act is a new civil court process that is available as of December 1, 2024. The CARE Act provides community-based behavioral health services and supports to eligible Californians living with schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders. CARE aims to promote long-term stability and independence and to prevent more restrictive alternatives, such as conservatorships, incarceration, and hospitalizations.

*[quote for you to modify to fit your organization’s voice – this is an example]* “Navigating the mental health system can be overwhelming for individuals and their families. Through the CARE Act, we aim to be a guiding resource for those in need,” said (NAME, TITLE) of (YOUR ORGANIZATION). *[quote for you to modify – this is an example]* “By connecting individuals to clinically appropriate, community-based services, we can help ensure a pathway to recovery and stability.”

The CARE Act authorizes specified adult persons (such as family members, health care providers, first responders, and others) to petition a civil court to create a voluntary CARE agreement or a court-ordered CARE plan that may include treatment, housing resources, and other services in (YOUR COUNTY). A CARE agreement or CARE plan continues for one year, with the possibility of a one-year extension.

For more information about filing a CARE Act petition, please see: [Information for Petitioners—About the CARE Act](https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/jcc-form/CARE-050-INFO). (YOUR ORGANIZATION/COUNTY) is now accepting petitions in person or by mail at (YOUR COUNTY COURT’S ADDRESS) or electronically at (YOUR COUNTY COURT’S WEBSITE if available). Petitioners can also receive assistance at a Self-Help Center. Access your nearest Self-Help Center by using the Judicial Branch of California’s [Self-Help Center locator](https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/self-help/find-self-help). For more information on CARE Act in (YOUR COUNTY), please visit (COUNTY SPECIFIC CARE OR BH WEBSITE).

*[quote for you to include to fit your organization’s voice - this is your opportunity to share an initial impact e.g., estimate of petitions/inquiries since launch, anecdotal example of process success, staff preparation, etc.]*” said (NAME, TITLE) of (YOUR ORGANIZATION). *[quote for you to modify to fit your organization’s voice – this is an example]* “We are dedicated to supporting long-term recovery for those in our communities who too often languish without the treatment they desperately need.”

###