



Implementation Update November 2023



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH**
hope. recovery. wellbeing.



LOS ANGELES: LAUNCHING 10 MONTHS EARLY



| | |
|-----------------|--|
| COHORT 1 | Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Launched on October 1, 2023 |
| COHORT 2 | All other California Counties Set to launch on October 1, 2024 |

Early Implementer Los Angeles
December 1, 2023



New CIVIL COURT PROCESS established to:

**Community
Assistance,
Recovery &
Empowerment Act
[CARE]**

- Focus counties and other local governments on serving persons with **untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders**
- Provide **behavioral health and housing resources and services**
- **Protect self-determination and civil liberties** by providing legal counsel and promoting supported decision making
- **Intervene sooner** in the lives of those with multiple needs
- Ensure local governments have support while **driving accountability** for their role

Embedded Version

CARE
(Community Assistance,
Recovery and
Empowerment)
Act

CALHS



CARE COURT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



Respondents must meet all the criteria to be eligible for CARE Court:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Diagnosed within the "schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders" class and currently experiencing symptoms.
- Not clinically stabilized in ongoing treatment.
- The individual's mental health is substantially deteriorating.
- The person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without support AND/OR needs services to prevent relapse and deterioration.
- Participation in a CARE Plan is the least restrictive alternative and the individual is likely to benefit from participation in a CARE Plan.



SCHIZOPHRENIA Diagnostic Criteria per DSM5 TR (2022)

Per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition Text Revision (2022), the diagnosis of Schizophrenia is now known as "Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders" which include Schizophrenia, other psychotic disorders, and the schizotypal (personality) disorder.

Individuals with this group of disorders have distinct difficulties with understanding, processing and conveying information accurately.

They can experience:

- Delusions--fixed beliefs which do not change despite contradictory facts/evidence,
- Hallucinations--sensory like reactions without an external/known cause,
- Disorganized thinking as expressed in one's speech (talking which does not make sense to the conversation/question) or motor behaviors (extremes of agitation or constant movement, postures or gestures that respond to difficulties in the information processing such as grimacing, postures, catatonia) and
- Negative symptoms--profound decrease in emotions, speech, movements, and activities which are self initiated for purposeful and/or pleasurable activities

NOTE: As the symptoms begin, medical and/or mental health providers make a diagnosis based upon what is observed and reported.



Other Psychotic Disorders?

Often the term is used when providers do not have enough information to make a full criteria diagnosis of a specific disorder on the Schizophrenia spectrum.

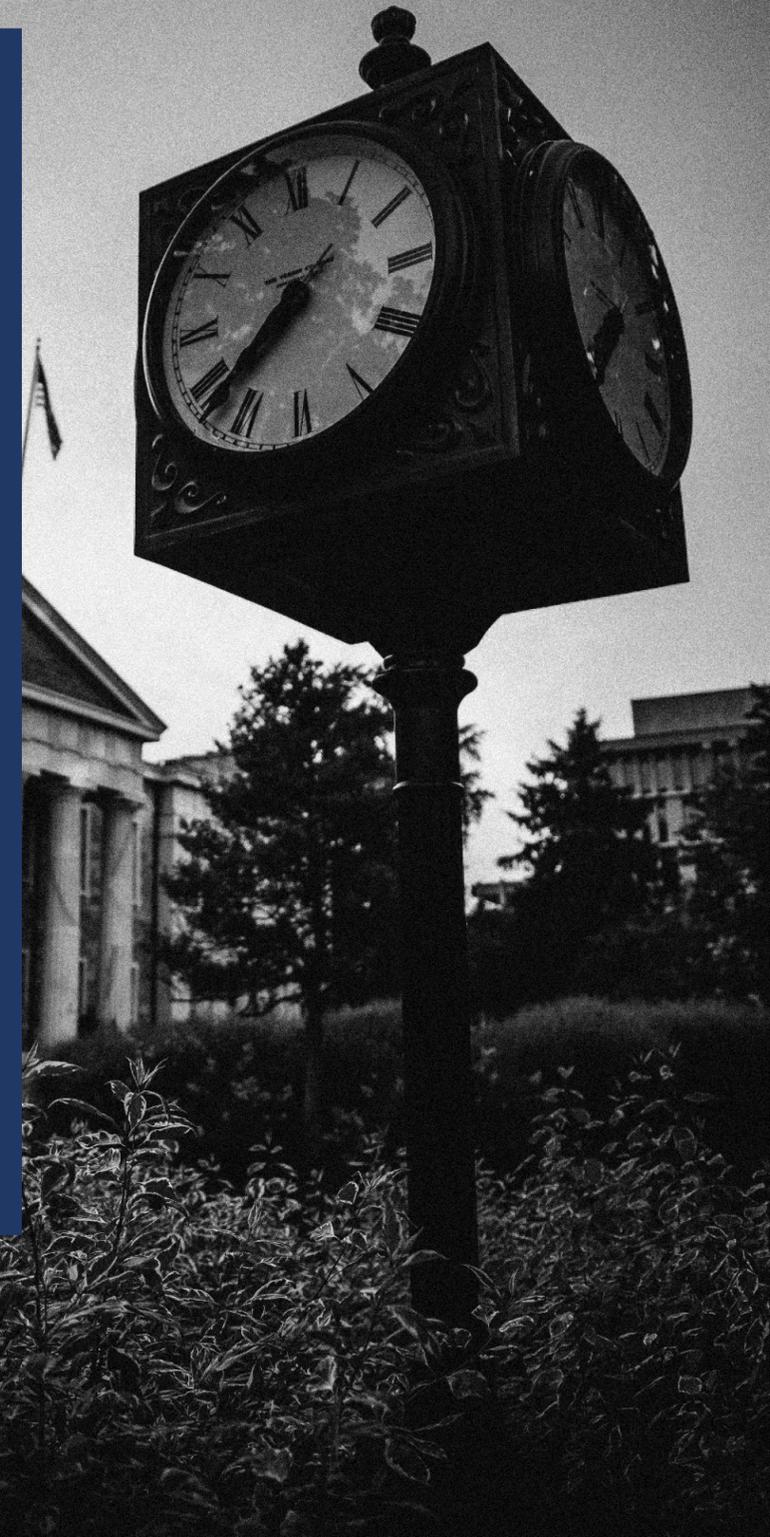
In emergency or crisis settings, this is used when there is a possibility that the psychotic symptoms could be related to difficulties with mood, substance use, or traumatic experiences and this is seen as a diagnosis to describe the person's state in a moment in time: perhaps not indicative of a global difficulty or better explained under different circumstances by one of the other categories of concern (i.e. mood, substances, and/or trauma).



Self Awareness and Impact

Self Awareness and Impact? While individuals may be diagnosed at any point in life, it is often delayed or impacted by the belief that they are not experiencing symptoms and are unaware of their condition--called anosognosia.

When someone is unaware of their own health condition, the more unlikely it is that they will seek and remain in a treatment program and this unfortunately has a negative impact to their overall health and their ability to think, engage in social and occupational activities of daily living over their lifetime.





LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE COURT PROCESS AT A GLANCE



How to Begin

A family member, roommate, clinician, or other eligible person may [file a petition](#), referring an individual that needs help to the CARE program.

Please learn about the [CARE Court eligibility requirements](#) BEFORE moving forward with the petition process. Not everyone is eligible to receive CARE services.



Assessment

If the petition is accepted, a hearing is scheduled within 14 days to determine if the individual qualifies for the CARE program

Once a petition is accepted, a judge appoints a legal representative for the individual and will ask to include a client-chosen supporter. An assessment is conducted to determine if the individual qualifies to take part in the CARE program.



CARE Plan

If the individual is accepted, a clinical team of experts, which can include clinicians, case managers, people with lived experience, and others, meets with them in the community to create a personalized treatment plan tailored to their needs. It may include housing, stabilization medications, counseling, wellness and recovery support, and other services.

The plan provides participants with up to a year of services and support, which can be renewed for an additional year.



Support

CARE Court will have periodic check-ins with the participant. These check-ins evaluate the individual's progress and allow for changes to the CARE Plan and its services and resources to support healing and recovery.



Completion

At 11 months, CARE Court holds a one-year status hearing to determine whether the plan's services and supports should be extended for up to 12 more months.



Next Steps

The participant can continue with treatment, supportive services, and housing options in the community to support their long-term recovery.



FILING A CARE COURT PETITION: HOW TO FILE



Two forms needed to initiate CARE Court process:

- [CARE-100](#) form

AND

- [CARE-101 Mental Health Declaration](#) completed by a licensed behavioral health provider

OR

- Attach evidence, to CARE-100 form, that the person in need of services was detained for a minimum of two periods of intensive treatment (WIC 5250 holds process) and the most recent event occurred within the past 60 days.

CONFIDENTIAL **CARE-100**

| | |
|--|---|
| ATTORNEY OR PETITIONER WITHOUT ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name): | FOR COURT USE ONLY RESPONDENT CASE NUMBER: |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME: | |
| CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS FOR (name): | |
| PETITION TO COMMENCE CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS | |
| For information on completing this form, see <i>Information for Petitioners—About the CARE Act</i> (form CARE-050-INFO). | |

1. Petitioner (name):
is 18 years of age or older and
- A person who lives with the respondent as a spouse, sibling, child, or grandchild.
 - A spouse or registered domestic partner, sibling, child, or grandchild of the respondent.
 - A person who stays with the respondent.
 - The director* of a hospital.

CONFIDENTIAL **CARE-101**

| | |
|--|---|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name): | FOR COURT USE ONLY RESPONDENT CASE NUMBER: |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME: | |
| CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS FOR (name): | |
| MENTAL HEALTH DECLARATION—CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS | |
| TO LICENSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL This form will be used to help the court determine whether respondent meets the diagnostic criteria for CARE Act proceedings. | |
| GENERAL INFORMATION | |
| 1. Declarant's name: _____ | |
| 2. Office address, telephone number, and email address: _____ | |
| 3. License status (complete either a or b): a. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a licensed behavioral health professional and conducting the examination described on this form is within the scope of my license. I have a valid California license as a (check one): _____ | |



CARE COURT SELF-HELP OPTIONS



<https://selfhelp.lacourt.org/>

Self-Help Center Phone line: (213) 830 0845

In-Person at Any of These Self-Help Centers Across Los Angeles County:

Chatsworth Courthouse
9425 Penfield Ave. Chatsworth,
CA 91311

Compton Courthouse
200 West Compton Blvd.
Compton, CA 90220

**Governor George Deukmejian
Courthouse**
275 Magnolia Ave. Long Beach,
CA 90802

**Michael Antonovich AV
Courthouse**
42011 4th St. West Lancaster, CA
93534

Norwalk Courthouse
12720 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk, CA
90650

Pasadena Courthouse
300 East Walnut St. Pasadena,
CA 91101

Pomona Courthouse South
400 Civic Center Plaza Pomona,
CA 91766

Stanley Mosk Courthouse
111 North Hill St. Los Angeles,
CA 90012

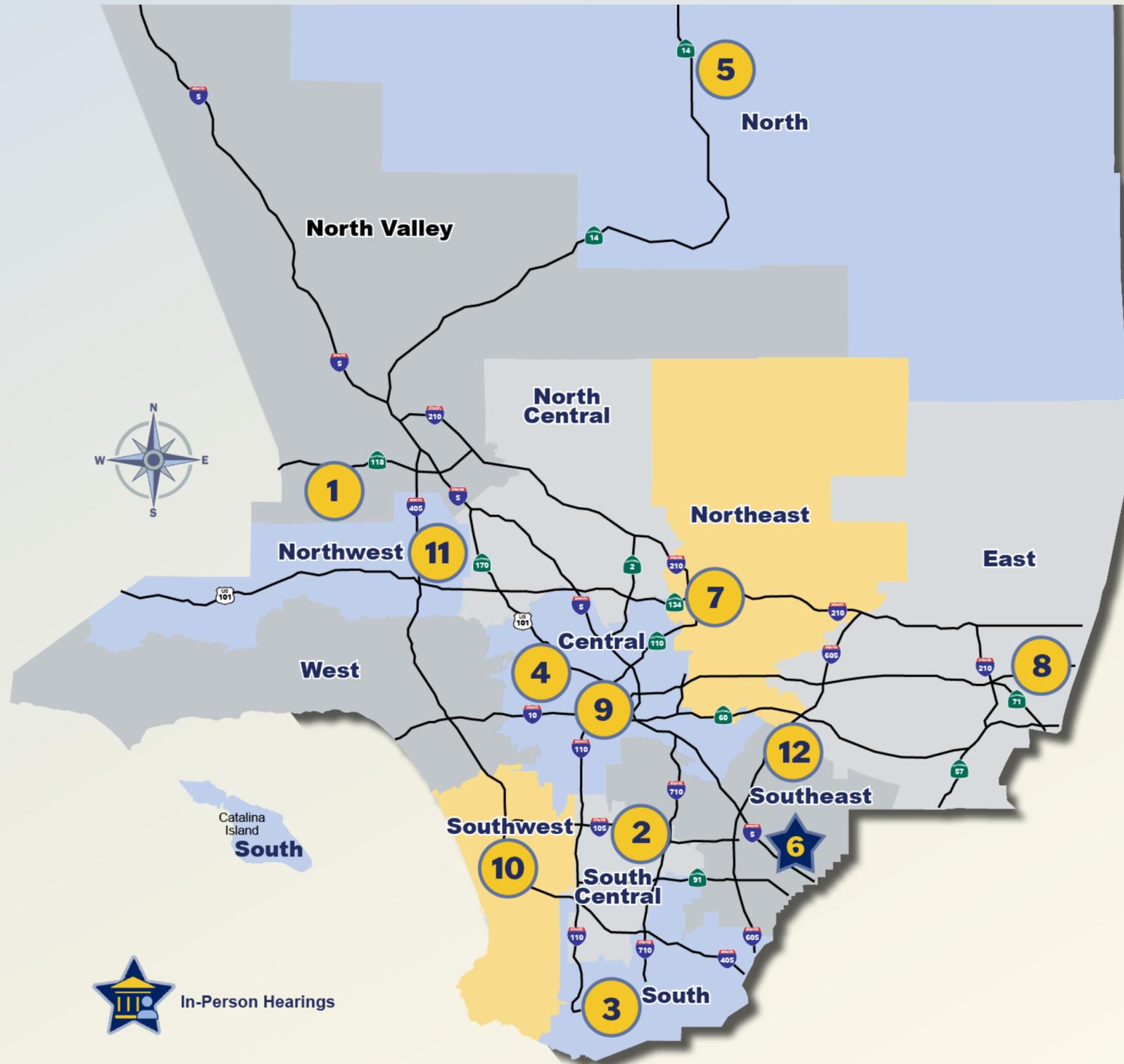
Torrance Courthouse
825 Maple Ave. Torrance, CA
90503

Van Nuys Courthouse East
6230 Sylmar Ave. Van Nuys, CA
91401

Whittier Courthouse
7339 South Painter Ave. Whittier,
CA 90602



FILING A CARE COURT PETITION: WHERE TO FILE



- Electronically using an EFSP.
- In person at the 12 Clerk's Office locations shown on the map

Electronic Filing (Efiling) Mandatory For All Attorneys

In-Person filing option available for self-represented litigants.



www.lacourt.org



 Civil e filing

 Complex Civil e filing

 Probate e filing

 Juvenile Dependency e filing

 Family Law e filing

 Adoptions e filing

 Small Claims e filing

 Mental Health Facility-Based Hearings e filing

 CARE Court e filing

CARE COURT EFILING

The Mental Health Division has implemented [mandatory electronic filing](#) (efiling) for CARE Court cases. Attorneys must electronically file and self-represented litigants may efile. CARE Court matters are heard at the Norwalk Courthouse. This site provides a list of approved Electronic Filing Service Providers (EFSP) and informational material to assist you with e filing your documents.

E filing Service Providers

CARE Court FAQs

View Document Options





IN-PERSON HEARINGS AND REMOTE APPEARANCE OPTIONS

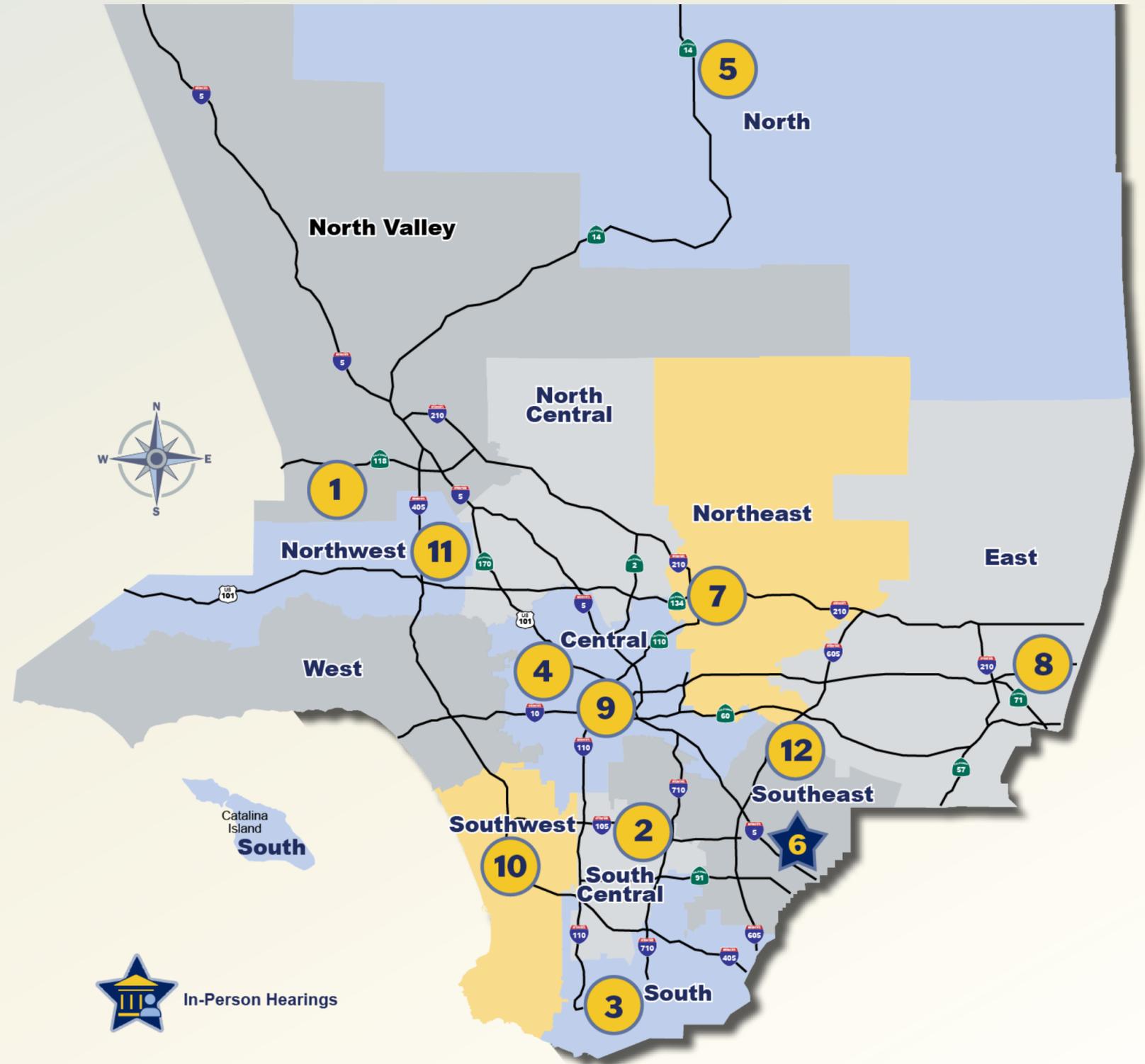


- **In-person hearings at Norwalk Courthouse**
 - Plans to move to a central location soon

- **Remote attendance available from any internet-capable location.**



- **12 Courthouses have private spaces for remote appearances.**
 - Instructions for remote access provided to participants upon notice of hearing.





WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER FILING A PETITION



Assessment

The Court will assess and evaluate the petition to determine if there is sufficient information to schedule an initial hearing for the individual or if more information is needed. The eligible individual may be contacted by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and may also be contacted by an appointed attorney.



Determination and Treatment Hearings

Usually after the parties have begun exchanging information, the Court will hold closed hearings to determine whether the individual can participate in CARE Court. At the initial hearing, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health will become the petitioner in the CARE Court case and will remain the petitioner for the duration of the case.



Oversight and Treatment Implementation Hearings

The Court will schedule hearings, to occur every 60 days at a minimum, to learn about the individual's progress. Progress reports can be scheduled for up to a year, if needed and extended for an additional year under certain circumstances..



Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the duration of the CARE Court process, specialists monitor the individual's progress and adjustments are made as needed, whether there is a mutually entered into CARE Agreement or CARE Plan order requested by a judicial officer.

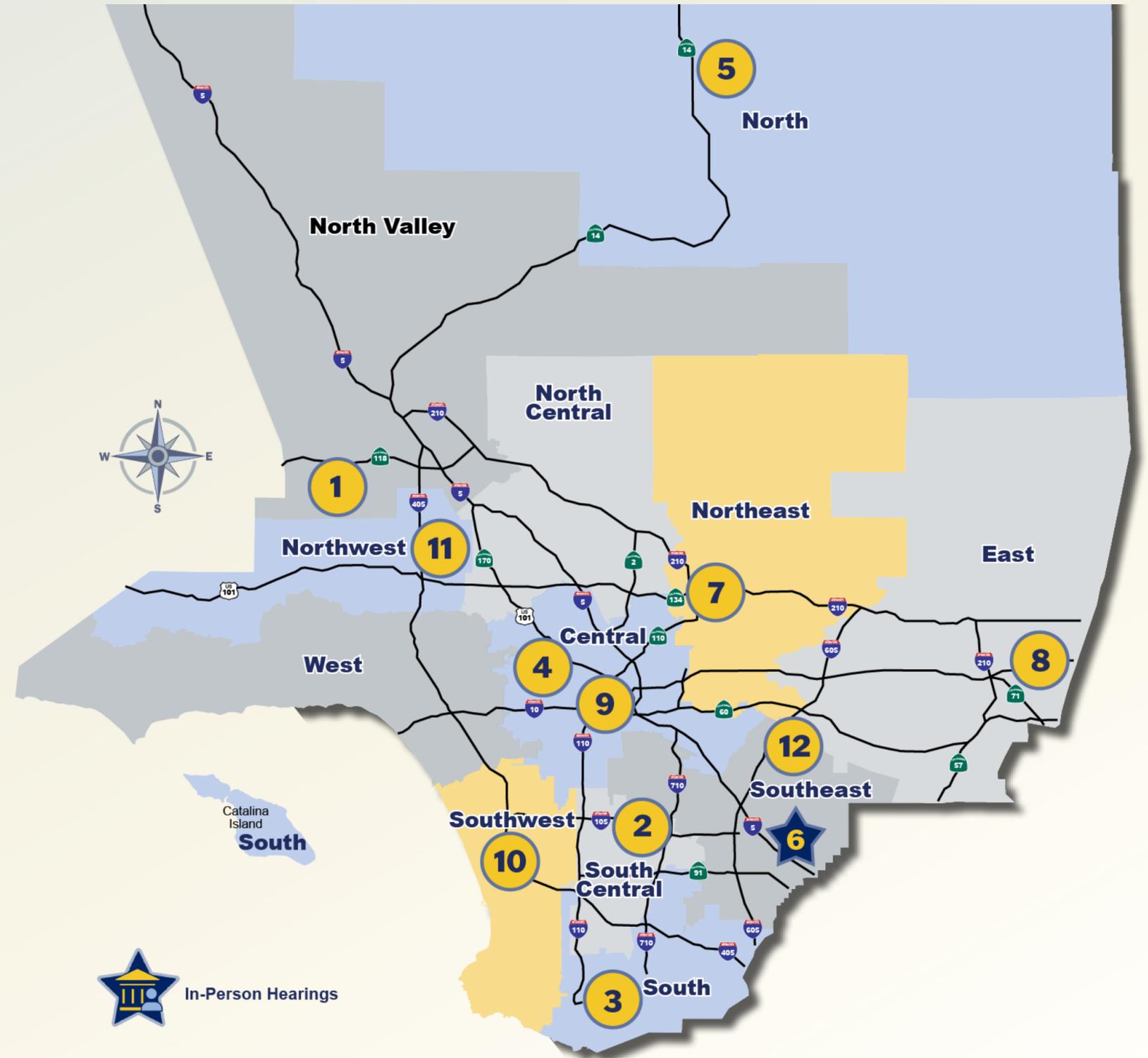
INITIAL PROCESS LASTS ONE YEAR. CAN BE EXTENDED UP TO TWO YEARS.



EQUITY IN ACCESS WITH TECHNOLOGY



- **Dedicated Private Spaces may used for Remote Appearance to any CARE Court Hearing in Norwalk**
- **HEARINGS WILL BE HANDLED BE IN DEPT. B OR Z IN NORWALK**
- **PARTIES MAY APPEAR IN PERSON, REMOTELY FROM ANY LOCATION WHERE THEY CAN ACCESS WEBEX, OR FROM A DEDICATE PRIVATE SPACE IN ONE OF 12 COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS**
- **JUDGE SCOTT HERIN AND JUDGE RENE GILBERTSON ARE THE DESIGNATED CARE COURT JUDICIAL OFFICERS**
- **ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT CASES WILL ALSO BE HANDLED IN DEPTS. B & Z AT NORWALK.**



- **Appointed Counsel**

Legal representation for Care Court respondents will be provided by Independent Defense Counsel's Office (IDCO)

Panel of 50 attorneys with mental health and holistic legal training and experience will represent respondents when appointed by the Care Court



www.LACourt.org/CARE



- **Mobile friendly**
- **Multiple languages**
- **Frequently Asked Questions, helpful videos, and more.**



THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Select Language ▼

Powered by Google Translate

Welcome to CARE Court



Welcome to CARE Court

On December 1, 2023, Los Angeles County will implement the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. **Beginning December 1, 2023**, qualifying individuals or entities can petition the Superior Court of Los Angeles County to help connect eligible individuals to a broad array of services, including mental health and housing services, via a voluntary CARE Agreement or CARE Plan established and overseen by a judicial officer.

More Resources: www.lacourt.org/care

Information for Petitioners:

 [Instructions to File and Petition for CARE Act Services](#)

 [Form to Petition for CARE Act Services](#)

 [Resources for Petitioners about the CARE Act \(short explanation of the legal/mental health process\)](#)

 [Fact sheet about the CARE Act Information Form for Petitioners](#)

 [CARE Act Information for Petitioner](#)

Information for Respondents:

 [CARE Act Information for Respondents](#)

 [Respondents' Rights While Participating in CARE Court](#)

Information for Supporters:

 [The Supporter Role, the adult who assures the CARE Court process reflects the respondent's right](#)

Information for Mental Health Specialists:

 [Evaluation Form for Mental Health Specialists](#)

Additional Information:

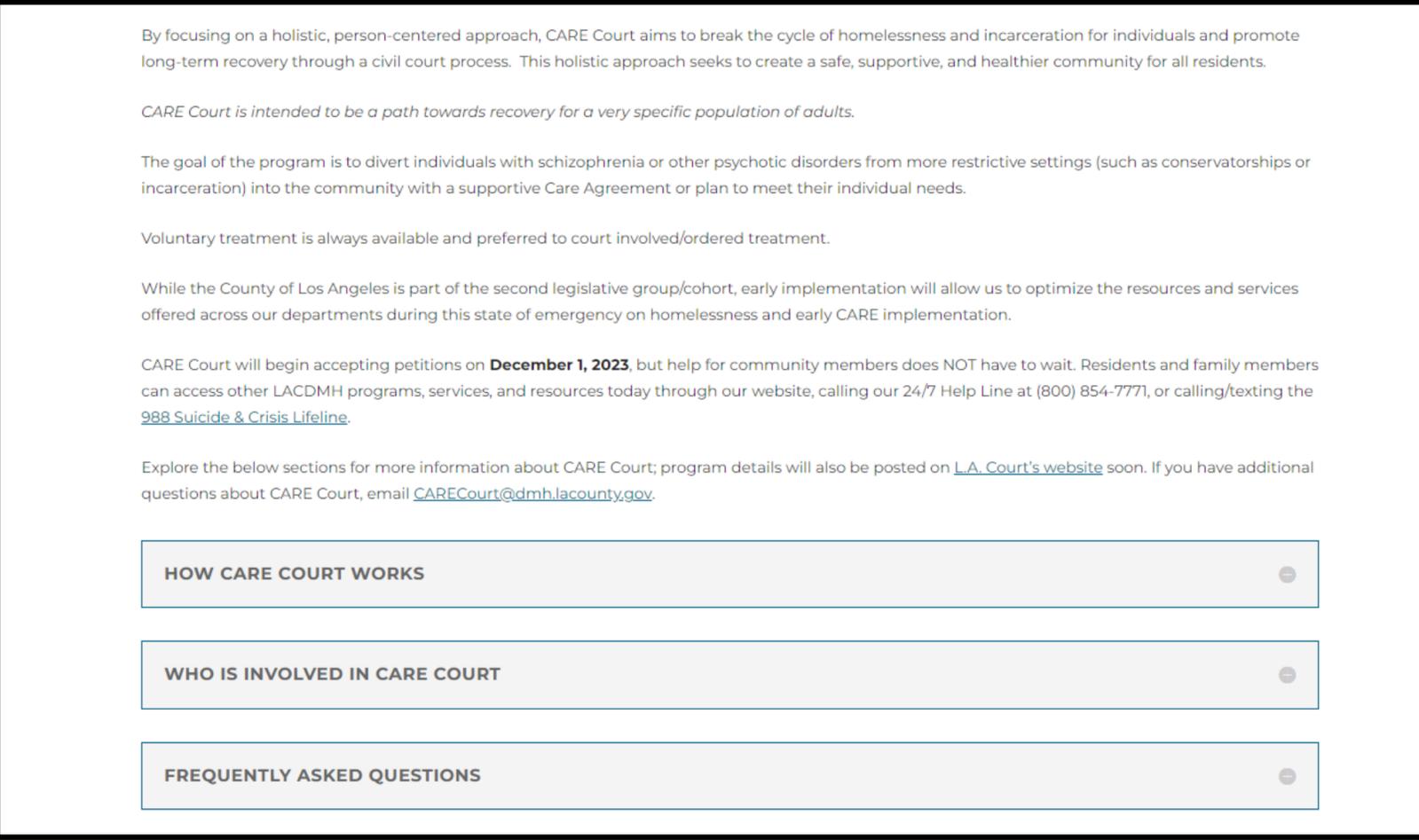
CARE Court: Referral Information & Links



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health website. The logo on the left includes the text "LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH" and the tagline "hope. recovery. wellbeing." The navigation menu contains "ABOUT DMH", "OUR SERVICES", "FOR PROVIDERS", "EVENT CALENDAR", and a "GET HELP NOW!" button. The main heading is "CARE COURT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES" with three accessibility icons below it. The central graphic features two hands holding a heart with three stylized figures inside. Below this is the "CARECourt" logo in blue and yellow, with the tagline "LA County Caring Together". At the bottom, a paragraph states: "The **Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court** is a [new state law](#) meant to address and treat those with severe mental health disorders, such as schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, by allowing a court to order behavioral health treatment in community-based settings."

Web: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/court-programs/care-court/>

Email: CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov



The screenshot displays the main content of the CARE Court program page. It begins with a paragraph: "By focusing on a holistic, person-centered approach, CARE Court aims to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration for individuals and promote long-term recovery through a civil court process. This holistic approach seeks to create a safe, supportive, and healthier community for all residents." This is followed by a sub-heading: "CARE Court is intended to be a path towards recovery for a very specific population of adults." The next paragraph explains the goal: "The goal of the program is to divert individuals with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders from more restrictive settings (such as conservatorships or incarceration) into the community with a supportive Care Agreement or plan to meet their individual needs." A subsequent paragraph notes: "Voluntary treatment is always available and preferred to court involved/ordered treatment." Another paragraph states: "While the County of Los Angeles is part of the second legislative group/cohort, early implementation will allow us to optimize the resources and services offered across our departments during this state of emergency on homelessness and early CARE implementation." The following paragraph says: "CARE Court will begin accepting petitions on **December 1, 2023**, but help for community members does NOT have to wait. Residents and family members can access other LACDMH programs, services, and resources today through our website, calling our 24/7 Help Line at (800) 854-7771, or calling/texting the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)." The final paragraph reads: "Explore the below sections for more information about CARE Court; program details will also be posted on [L.A. Court's website](#) soon. If you have additional questions about CARE Court, email CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov." Below the text are three expandable menu items: "HOW CARE COURT WORKS", "WHO IS INVOLVED IN CARE COURT", and "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS".



Other Avenues of Support

If a CARE Act petition is not accepted or the participant chooses not to take part in the program, there are many other ways to find support. If someone you know needs help, please use the numbers below or visit the Los Angeles County Department of Health (LACDMH) Get Help Now! page at dmh.lacounty.gov/get-help-now to find additional resources and helplines.

Call or text 988

to contact the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
for support with mental health-related distress.

Call 1-800-854-7771 (24/7 Help Line)

for crisis response teams in the field or mental
health resources through the LACDMH.

Text "LA" to 741741

to connect with a trained crisis counselor to receive
free crisis support via text message.

Call 211

for general information on resources or to be
connected to health, human and social services.