



Changes to LPS Conservatorship in San Francisco

What is LPS Conservatorship and how does it work?

Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship supports adults who are unable to meet their basic needs and accept voluntary treatment due to serious mental illness or severe substance use disorder. Within San Francisco's Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS), the Public Conservator facilitates the conservatorship process and oversees the care of people who are conserved.

The Public Conservator accepts conservatorship referrals from hospitals, designated facilities, and community clinics. A referral is a form that trained medical experts complete to explain why they believe a person should be put under conservatorship. The referred person must be considered "gravely disabled" due to a serious mental health disorder or severe substance use disorder. Further, their disabling condition must prevent them from meeting their basic needs. This individual must also be unable or unwilling to accept voluntary treatment.

If the person meets these conditions and is gravely disabled, the Superior Court may grant a conservatorship and appoint the Public Conservator to look after their care. The Public Conservator must

- Work together with medical and mental health clinicians.
- Approve psychiatric treatment and placement.
- Arrange for other helpful services to help the person recover in the least restrictive setting possible.

LPS Conservatorship Eligibility

Your family member or loved one might qualify if they:

- Have a mental health illness and/or a serious problem with drugs or alcohol.
- Can't take care of their basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or staying safe because of their illness.
- Aren't willing or able to get help on their own.

Learn more by calling the DAS Benefits and Resources Hub at (415) 355-6700.



How has LPS Conservatorship changed in 2024?

Starting January 1, 2024, California Senate Bill 43 changed the rules about what it means to be “gravely disabled.” Before this change, only people with serious mental health needs and chronic alcohol abuse could be conserved. Now, it is also possible for people with a severe drug use problem. If a person can’t take care of their basic needs because of their mental health condition or addiction problem, then they are considered gravely disabled. The definition of these basic needs also changed under Senate Bill 43. Previously, someone was considered gravely disabled if they could not provide for their own basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter; that now also includes not being able to manage their own critical medical care and stay safe in their community.

Is LPS Conservatorship the right resource?

LPS Conservatorship is a last resort. There are less restrictive programs, some voluntary, that offer support to San Franciscans in need. Other resources to consider before conservatorship include:

- Civil Court programs like Assisted Outpatient Treatment (a court-ordered outpatient treatment for individuals who have severe mental illness and meet other specific criteria) or CARE Court (for individuals who have a diagnosis in the schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorder diagnosis).
- Voluntary services for mental health and substance use assessment and treatment, available through the Behavioral Health Access Center and Treatment Access Program.

How can I get help or find out more?

For help understanding if CARE Court is the right option:

Contact the Department of Public Health’s CARE Court Team at carecourtconsultation@sfdph.org or call (628) 217-5171.
Website: sf.gov/care-court

For help understanding if Assisted Outpatient Treatment is the right option:

Contact the Department of Public Health’s AOT Care Team at (415) 255-3936 or the toll-free number (844) 255-4097.
Website: sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oservices/mentalHlth/AOT/default.asp



If you wish to learn more about conservatorship:

Contact the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) Benefits and Resources Hub by phone at (415) 355-6700 or in person at 2 Gough Street.

Get Connected - DAS Benefits & Resources Hub

Contact the DAS Hub to learn more!

We are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **In Person:** Drop in to see us at 2 Gough Street
- **By Phone:** Call our helpline at (415) 355-6700
- **Online:** Visit our website at SFHSA.org

Additional Resources

If you need help right now and have a medical or mental health emergency, please call or text 911. If you, a family member or loved one, or someone in your community needs help, we can help you find the right resource. For help finding mental health services or services for alcohol and/or drug abuse (including benefits enrollment):

Call the Department of Public Health’s (DPH) Behavioral Health Service’s 24/7 access line at (888) 246-3333 or visit the:

- **Behavioral Health Access Center (BHAC)**
1380 Howard Street, 1st Floor (at 10th Street)
San Francisco, CA 94103
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Weekends, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Suicide Support Line:** (415) 781-0500
- **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:** 988
- **Peer-Run Mental Health Talk Line:** (855) 845-7415
- **Substance Use Relapse Line:** (415) 834-1144

Drop-In Support:

Westside Crisis

(415) 355-0311
245 11th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dore Urgent Care

(415) 553-3100
52 Dore Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
24 hours, 7 days a week