

# Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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## Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara Launches CARE Court

**SAN JOSÉ, California (November 27, 2024):** On December 2, 2024, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, will officially launch the CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment) Court program, a comprehensive framework championed by Governor Gavin Newsom to address the interconnected crises of untreated mental health disorders, substance use, and homelessness.

The CARE Court initiative offers individuals with severe mental health challenges access to housing, treatment, and support services. The program is rooted in compassion and empowerment, with a focus on community-based solutions.

“CARE Court represents a transformative opportunity to address the most pressing needs of our community,” said Hon. Beth McGowen, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. “By providing structured support and compassionate care, this program offers a pathway to stability and recovery for individuals facing severe mental health and substance use challenges, while fostering accountability and hope for a brighter future.”

Family members, first responders, mental health service providers and others are authorized by statute to refer qualifying individuals to CARE Court. Through a carefully designed Care Plan, referred individuals will be connected with stabilization medications, treatment and recovery support, housing plans and social services. During the Care Court process, lasting 12-24 months, individuals are supported by a clinical team, a public defender, and personal advocate to help them make self-directed decisions.

“We are witnessing a return to community-driven solutions to address the most vulnerable in our society,” said Judge Stephen V. Manley of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. “This program is a lifeline for individuals who might otherwise fall through the cracks.” Local advocacy groups have also voiced their support.

For more information about CARE Court in the Santa Clara County, visit:

<https://santaclara.courts.ca.gov/divisions/collaborative-courts>.

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