

Public Conservator Overview

Health, Housing, Homelessness, and Human Services

Committee of the Board of Supervisors

October 20, 2025



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Conservator Summary

- Mental Health Conservatorship under Lanterman-Petris-Short Act of 1967 (LPS)
- Court appointed conservator for residents deemed gravely disabled by Superior Court due to mental illness and/or Substance Use Disorder (SB 43 effective Jan 2026)
- **Total Staffing:** 17
- **Deputy Staffing:** 10.0 FTE
- **Active Cases** – 648
- **Deputy Assigned Cases** – 546
 - Out of the 648 active cases
 - 103 Misc.
 - 158 LPS
- **Referring agencies:** Natividad MHU, CHOMP Garden Pavilion, Criminal Court, Out-of-County Hospitals



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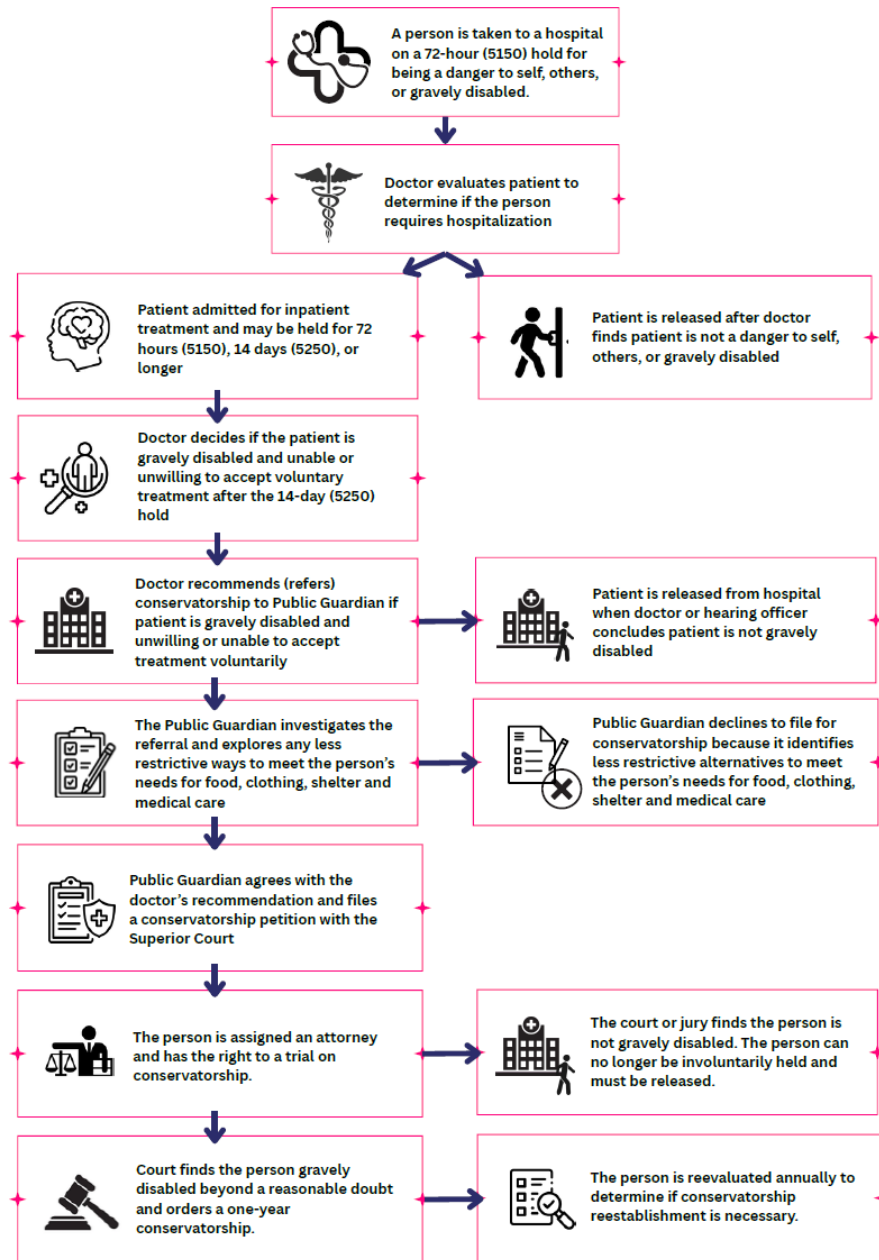
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Explained: the LPS Conservatorship Process



Key Points: Referrals from Inpatient Facilities

- Patient admitted for inpatient behavioral health treatment
- Physician assesses for grave disability during legal hold times
 - Patient is released if not found gravely disabled or stabilizes
- Conservatorship referral submitted for patients deemed gravely disabled
- Conservator's office investigates
 - Meets legal criteria (food, clothing, shelter)
 - Least restrictive alternatives
- If Investigator agrees with physician, then petition with the Supervisor Court is filed
- If Courts finds person gravely disabled
 - Temporary Conservator
 - 1 year conservatorship
 - Re-evaluated every year



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Summary of Referrals in Last Year

(January – October 14, 2025)

- **Number of referrals submitted by entity**
 - Natividad - 23
 - CHOMP - 1
 - Criminal Court – 13
 - Other - 6
- **Determination of Referrals**
 - Denial - 16
 - Accepted and Petitioned – 18
 - Pending Determination - 2



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Summary of Placement Type

- **Number of LPS by placement type** (Lanterman-Petris-Short)
 - Board & Care - 54
 - Deceased - 2
 - Hospital - 3
 - Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) - 37
 - Psychiatric Hospital - 1
 - Skilled Nursing Facility - 14
 - State Hospital - 11



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Challenges and Opportunities

- **Challenges**

- Family Visiting
 - Out of county clients
- Demand for inpatient services exceed system capacity
 - Longer wait times in emergency departments
 - Improper Placements
 - Demand for higher levels of care (IMD, MHRC)
 - Longer inpatient stays than medically necessary
 - Lower reimbursement rate for Admin days
 - Demand for inpatient services exceeds system capacity

- **Opportunities**

- Future construction of MHRCs
 - Clients in county are closer to treatment services and family
- Tailored-based treatment



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Questions & Answers

Sarah Solano, Chief Deputy
(831) 883-7502
solanos@countyofmonterey.gov
[Website](#)



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