



# Judiciary of Guam

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ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

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PRESIDING JUDGE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 29, 2026

### **Judiciary of Guam's Mental Health Court Improves Access to Services Through the CARE Initiative**

**Hagåtña, Guam** — The Judiciary of Guam is proud to announce the launch of CARE - Court-Assisted Recovery and Empowerment- a new initiative through the Mental Health Court and reflects a growing commitment to helping people find support, stability, and recovery, and second chances.

Mental Health Court is designed for individuals who are involved in the justice system and are also dealing with serious mental health and substance use challenges. The program helps connect individuals to treatment and support and offers guidance so they can move forward and build healthier lives.

*“Mental Health Court reflects the Judiciary’s belief that recovery is possible and that meaningful change can happen when people are given the right support and opportunities,”* said Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman. *“Through CARE, we are working to improve public safety while also treating individuals with dignity, compassion, and accountability.”*

The goal of Mental Health Court is to reduce justice system involvement among individuals with mental health and substance use disorders by connecting them to treatment and support services.

Individuals are eligible for the program if they are 18 years or older, charged with a crime, and have a mental health condition or substance use issue that played a role in their case. Their condition must also be something that can be treated through counseling, medication, or other support services.

The process begins when a judge, lawyer, or provider refers someone to the program. The Mental Health Court Team then reviews the case to see if the individual is eligible to enter the program. If accepted, the participant receives a personalized treatment plan. This may include counseling, medication, help finding housing, job support, and regular check-ins with the judge to track progress.

When participants successfully complete the program, they may have reduced or dismissed charges, better stability, and a fresh start for themselves and their families.

Mental Health Court reflects the Judiciary of Guam’s belief that recovery is possible and that mental health challenges should be met with care, not stigma.

Individuals interested in learning more about CARE are encouraged to talk to an attorney, provider, or legal representative.

JOG Press Release re CARE

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For more information about the MHC Program, please contact:

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