



Kern County

SHERIFF

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TRAINING BULLETIN

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Senate Bill 43 “Gravely Disabled”

This training bulletin is to inform and update Sheriff’s Office personnel on the expansion of “gravely disabled” as it relates to Welfare and Institution code section 5008.

Effective January 1, 2024, the definition of gravely disabled expands so that a conservatorship (including a 72-hour hold placed by law enforcement or other authority) may be ordered for a person suffering from severe substance abuse and chronic alcoholism. The definition includes a condition in which a person, as a result of a severe substance use disorder (including chronic alcoholism) or co-occurring mental health disorder and severe substance use disorder, is unable to care for their basic personal needs for food, clothing, and shelter, thus placing them in substantial risk of serious harm.

As of date, the County of Kern has deferred implementation of this section until January 1, 2026. Effective immediately, Kern County Sheriff’s Personnel will not place holds on subjects under the newly expanded “gravely disabled” definition until notified.

Detailed documents regarding the updated definition of “gravely disabled” can be located under Senate Bill 43 and section 5008 of the Welfare and Institutions code.