

CALIFORNIA PRISON HEALTH CARE SERVICES

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FACT SHEET

What is the Receivership?

In 2001, a federal class-action lawsuit alleged that the dire state of medical care in California state prisons violated the 8th amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. In 2002, the State settled the lawsuit by agreeing to reform the system. After several years of little progress, the court removed control of prison medical care from the State and appointed a federal Receiver to oversee the reform process. The receiver's job is to bring the level of medical care in California prisons to a standard which no longer violates the U.S. Constitution. Once that goal is accomplished and sustainability is ensured, the court will return control of prison medical care to the State and the Receivership will end.



The Receiver is responsible for:

- Providing health care to 135,913 inmates (93% male, 7% female).
- Delivering health care at 34 adult institutions in California.
- Overseeing more than 7,000 California prison health care positions, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and administrative staff.

Thousands of inmates are released into their communities each month after completing their sentence or achieving parole. If they carry a disease because of an untreated medical or mental health condition, law-abiding members of the general public may be affected.

RECEIVERSHIP TIMELINE

