



## Receiver Fact Sheet

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The Receivership was established by U.S. District Court Judge Thelton E. Henderson as the result of a 2001 class-action lawsuit (Plata v. Schwarzenegger) against the state of California over the quality of medical care in the state's prisons. The court found that the medical care was a violation of the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which forbids cruel and unusual punishment of the incarcerated.

The state settled the suit in 2002, agreeing to remedies that would bring prison health care in line with constitutional standards. However, the state failed to comply with the court's direction, and in June 2005, Judge Henderson established a Receivership for prison medical care. The Receiver reports to the federal court, not the Governor. Mental and dental health are not under Receivership authority, but under CDCR.

Under this arrangement, improvements have been made to health care treatment facilities at institutions across the state with the goal of improving the standard of patient care in accordance with the court's decisions. As of February 2023, medical operations at 20 institutions have been delegated back to the authority of the CDCR Undersecretary of Health Care Services.

### The Receiver's responsibilities

A receivership is when a court appoints a neutral expert to be in control and bring improvements to unsatisfactory conditions. It is a rare tool that is used to address severe rights violations. In this instance, the California state government was stripped of control for medical care. As improvements are made to facilities, treatment offerings and standards, the receiver can delegate control back to the state. In this case that would be to the CDCR Undersecretary of Health Care Services.

The receivership is responsible for delivering medical care at adult institutions in California and oversees more than 11,730 medical care positions, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and administrative staff.

### Receivership Timeline

- **August 29, 2001:** Plata v. Davis/ Schwarzenegger class-action lawsuit filed on prison health care neglect.
- **June 13, 2002:** State reaches a settlement with the plaintiffs promising to improve prison health care. However, the state failed to comply with the court's direction.

- **October 3, 2005:** Federal court establishes a Receivership to oversee prison medical care.
- **February 14, 2006:** Federal court appoints Robert Sillen as the first Receiver.
- **2007 to 2009:** The receiver established custody health care access units at each institution to ensure patients were able to access medical care in every medical clinic within each institution.
- **January 23, 2008:** Federal court appoints J. Clark Kelso who replaces Robert Sillen as Receiver.
- **June 16, 2008:** Receiver's "Turnaround Plan of Action" is approved by the federal court and state of California.
- **August 13, 2008:** Receiver and state officials go to court over funding for construction projects.
- **June 3, 2010:** Governor signs AB 552 (Solorio) which funds construction of integrated bed plan negotiated between the Receiver and the Administration.
- **September 5, 2012:** Federal Court issues "Transition Plan" to delegate institutions from the receivership back to the state.
- **October 2012:** Responsibility for Health Care Access Unit and Activation Unit is delegated back to the state under a revocable delegation of authority signed by the Receiver and CDCR. A total of 3,320.6 PY were delegated back to the CDCR.
- **July 2013:** The California Health Care Facility (Stockton) is open. The facility houses 1,722 inmates. The facility will provide medical and mental health services to inmates needing the most intensive medical and mental health care.
- **March 10, 2015:** Receivership will delegate institutions back to the state and take on a monitoring function.
- **July 2015:** Complete Care Model, based on the industry standard known as the Patient-Centered Health Home, becomes the foundation for CCHCS health care services delivery.
- **October 31, 2017:** The statewide implementation of the Electronic Health Records System is completed.
- **December 3, 2018:** The statewide implementation of the Electronic Dental Records System is completed.
- **July 2019:** The Health Care Department Operations Manual (HCDOM) was published to include all medical and dental policies and procedures and mirrors the format of the CDCR Department Operations Manual.
- **September 2019:** CCHCS begins providing regular patient education videos for the population through DRP-TV on a Wellness channel. The content is available at all CDCR institutions for viewing in cells as well as public spaces.
- **January 2020:** The Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment program is implemented statewide across 34 CDCR institutions. The program launched with five core program elements, including substance use disorder screening, medication assisted treatment, cognitive behavioral interventions, supportive housing, and enhanced pre-



release planning and transition services aimed at strengthening care coordination upon release.

- **July 2020:** Emergency regulations for medical care were filed with the Secretary of State and became effective statewide in July 2019 within the newly established Title 15, Division 3, Chapter 2, Rules and Regulations of Health Care Services. In July 2020, the medical care regulations were fully approved by the Office of Administrative Law.
- **December 2020:** CCHCS begins rolling out the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines statewide in an effort that led to the full vaccination of more than 80% of the incarcerated population.
- **April 2022:** A review of the impacts of the Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program titled [Transforming Substance Use Disorder Treatment in California's Prison System](#) is released. The report details the strategies and services and progress made by the ISUDT program between 2019 and 2021.
- **January 2023:** The [California Prisons Naloxone Distribution](#) report is published. The report details the implementation of the CDCR and CCHCS Naloxone distribution program.

### Delegated Institutions

The receivership has delegated 20 of 33 institutions back to the state since February 2023.

- **2015:** FSP
- **2016:** CTF, CVSP, CCI, PBSP, CEN, SCC, CIM, ASP
- **2017:** SQ, CIW, KVSP, CAC, PVSP, CAL
- **2018:** CCC, CMC, VSP, COR
- **2022:** WSP