

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Correspond: pagetelegram@proton.me / 4096R/C3571166

Preamble:

This legislation is named in memory of Andrey Price, a vibrant and talented young man whose life was tragically cut short by the challenges of untreated schizophrenia. Born December 22, 1992, Andrey, a prolific artist and passionate truth-seeker, walked from Chicago to California in 2016 at age 23 after abandoning his apartment, originally intending to reach Area 51. Nine years later, in the summer of 2024, at age 31, he was found unresponsive from a drug overdose in Culver City, California, having self-medicated his diagnosed condition while living on the streets. Andrey's story reflects the struggles of many young adults whose schizophrenia emerges after they reach legal adulthood, often leaving them without insight into their condition and vulnerable to harm. Andrey's Law seeks to empower families and, where necessary, caseworkers to intervene compassionately and swiftly in such cases, while safeguarding against misuse of authority. This law also addresses chronic homelessness, as many end up unsheltered due to untreated schizophrenia.

27 Section 1: Purpose

28 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 29 1. Recognize that schizophrenia and related psychotic
30 disorders may not manifest until after an individual reaches
31 the age of majority (18), often resulting in a lack of
32 personal insight into their condition.
- 33 2. Grant parents of young adults (ages 18–25)–or designated
34 caseworkers in specific circumstances–temporary medical power
35 of attorney to authorize psychiatric evaluation and treatment
36 when the young adult is experiencing psychosis, living
37 unsheltered, and deemed a danger to themselves.
- 38 3. Establish safeguards to prevent abuse of this authority
39 and protect the rights of the individual.

40 Section 2: Definitions

41 Young Adult: An individual aged 18 to 25 years.

- 42 • Psychosis: A mental state characterized by a loss of contact
43 with reality, as diagnosed by a licensed physician or
44 psychiatrist, potentially indicative of schizophrenia or
45 related disorders.
- 46 • Unsheltered: Living without stable housing, including on the
47 streets, in vehicles, or in temporary encampments.
- 48 • Temporary Medical Power of Attorney: A limited authority
49 granted to a parent or caseworker to make medical decisions
50 related to psychiatric evaluation and treatment for a
51 specified duration.

- Caseworker: A state-appointed social worker or outreach professional assigned to assist unsheltered individuals.

Section 3: Eligibility and Process

3.1 Parental Authority

1. Criteria for Application:

- The young adult must be between 18 and 25 years old.
- The young adult must be unsheltered and exhibiting signs of psychosis, as observed by a parent and confirmed by a licensed physician or psychiatrist.
- The young adult must lack insight into their condition, rendering them unable to seek treatment voluntarily.

2. Procedure:

- A parent must submit a petition to a local court, accompanied by a letter of authorization from a licensed physician or psychiatrist who has evaluated the young adult (either in person or via documented observation).
- The letter must state that the young adult is likely experiencing psychosis, poses a danger to themselves due to their unsheltered status, and requires psychiatric intervention.
- The court shall review the petition within 72 hours and, if approved, grant the parent temporary medical power of attorney for a period not exceeding 90 days.

3. Scope of Authority:

- The temporary medical power of attorney authorizes the parent to consent to psychiatric evaluation, inpatient or outpatient treatment, and medication management.
- This authority does not extend to non-psychiatric medical decisions or other personal affairs.

3.2 Caseworker Authority (Amendment)

1. Criteria for Application:

- The young adult must be between 18 and 25 years old.
- The young adult must be (a) homeless and (b) assessed by a caseworker as homeless due to psychosis symptomology, with both conditions documented.
- This provision applies when parents are uninvolved (e.g., estranged, deceased, or otherwise absent) or the young adult is a runaway due to documented neglect or abuse.

2. Procedure:

- A caseworker must submit a request to a state judge, accompanied by documentation of homelessness (e.g., shelter records, law enforcement reports) and psychosis-related homelessness (e.g., written testimonials from law enforcement, independent agencies, or community members).
- If the young adult cannot or will not consent to evaluation by a psychiatrist or physician, such testimonials may substitute for a formal medical assessment.
- The judge shall review the request within 72 hours and, if both criteria are met, authorize a 72-hour hold for

psychiatric evaluation, potentially followed by temporary medical power of attorney for up to 90 days.

3. Scope of Authority:

The caseworker may consent to psychiatric evaluation and initial treatment during the 72-hour hold. If psychosis is confirmed, the temporary medical power of attorney extends to inpatient/outpatient treatment and medication management for up to 90 days.

4. Documentation and Repeat Interventions:

- Caseworkers may repeat this process if the young adult's condition persists, with each instance documented to support a potential case for state guardianship.
- Documentation from friends or trusted community members may be provided to caseworkers, adhering to HIPAA compliance.

3.3 Combined Provisions

Parents and caseworkers may access documentation from prior interventions (e.g., 72-hour holds) to build a legal record for state or parental guardianship if repeated crises demonstrate ongoing need, subject to court approval.

Section 4: Safeguards Against Abuse

1. Judicial Oversight:

- All petitions (parental or caseworker) must be reviewed and approved by a judge to ensure evidence of psychosis and necessity of intervention.

- The young adult shall be appointed a legal advocate or guardian ad litem to represent their interests during the court process.

2. Evaluation Requirement:

- Within 14 days of exercising the power of attorney, the young adult must undergo a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation by an independent, licensed psychiatrist not affiliated with the initial authorizing professional.
- If the evaluation does not confirm psychosis or a need for treatment, the power of attorney is revoked immediately.

3. Duration and Renewal Limits:

- The temporary power of attorney expires after 90 days unless renewed by court order, supported by new evidence of ongoing psychosis and need for treatment.
- No more than two renewals (totaling 270 days) may be granted without the young adult's consent or a separate legal determination of incompetence.

4. Appeals Process:

The young adult may appeal the decision at any time through their legal advocate, triggering an immediate review by the court.

5. Penalties for Misuse:

Evidence of coercion, falsified documentation, or misuse of authority by a parent or caseworker shall result in revocation of the power of attorney and potential criminal penalties.

151 6. Family History Review:

152 Courts shall consider any documented history of abuse,
153 neglect, or estrangement between the parent and young adult,
154 denying parental petitions where credible evidence suggests
155 motives contrary to the young adult's best interest. In such
156 cases, caseworker authority may be prioritized.

157 Section 5: Implementation

158 1. Funding: States shall allocate funds to support court-
159 appointed advocates, independent psychiatric evaluations,
160 caseworker training, and public awareness campaigns about
161 Andrey's Law.

162 2. Training: Physicians, psychiatrists, law enforcement, and
163 caseworkers shall receive training on identifying psychosis
164 and the provisions of this Act.

165 3. Reporting: States must submit annual reports on the use of
166 Andrey's Law, including the number of parental and caseworker
167 petitions filed, approved, and revoked, to ensure
168 transparency and accountability.

169 Section 6: Effective Date

170 This Act shall take effect on [pending review/enactment],
171 allowing time for states to establish necessary
172 infrastructure and protocols.