



HOW TO BRING LAURA'S LAW TO YOUR COUNTY

Whether or not your county adopts Laura's Law is up to members of your Board of Supervisors. Below are some simple steps you can take to help bring Laura's Law to your county.

STEP 1— IDENTIFY YOUR SUPPORTERS and CONVENE YOUR GROUP

- **IDENTIFY** others in your community likely to support implementing Laura's Law, e.g., other people you know who have mentally ill loved ones, NAMI members, police and sheriff's departments, hospitals with ERs, psychiatric workers, etc.
- **ESTABLISH** contact with fellow stakeholders by announcing an organizational meeting, establishing a Facebook page or another method common in your community for mobilizing advocates on important issues
- **FOCUS** the group that convenes on a single common goal: Getting Laura's Law implemented in your county

STEP 2— EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY

- **FAMILIARIZE** yourself thoroughly with California's law so you are prepared to answer questions, correct misinformation, and refute myths. All of California's civil commitment information is available from the [Civil Commitment Laws page](#) at TreatmentAdvocacyCenter.org.
- **WATCH** the documentary video "[Stopping the Revolving Door](#)" online or by [requesting a DVD](#) from the Treatment Advocacy Center. Suggest that your local NAMI affiliate or another community group show it at a program. Send the link or a DVD to key stakeholders, e.g., your district court judges, your police chief or sheriff, your local hospital administrator.
- **PUBLICIZE** the need for Laura's Law by pitching a story to local media, writing informative letters to the editor when mental illness-related stories are published in your local newspaper, or writing an op-ed for your newspaper. Ask others to speak out, too. Including your personal story in your pitches and letters will make them more powerful and likely to be used. Tips for writing letters can be found at [Get Involved](#) on the Treatment Advocacy Center website.

STEP 3— SEEK YOUR COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S SUPPORT

- **IDENTIFY** your county supervisor. His or her name and contact information will be available on your county's website, which you can find through the [California State Assn. of Counties](#).
- **CALL OR EMAIL** your supervisor's office and ask for a personal meeting to explain why you believe he/she should support Laura's Law. If the supervisor won't/can't meet with you, ask to meet with the chief of staff.
- **SEND** a letter to your supervisor explaining why you believe he/she should support Laura's Law. Ask friends, family and other fellow advocates to do the same. **Even just a few letters on a given issue can influence decision makers!**
- **ESTABLISH** a petition online for supporters of Laura's Law to sign. ([Change.org](#) offers tips on creating effective petitions.) Deliver or forward signed petitions to your supervisor's office.