**Merced County Public Defender’s Office**

Serving: Merced County Residents

Facility: County Operated

Region: Countywide

Address: 301 East 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341

Phone: [(209) 381-6840](tel:+2093816840)     Fax: (209) 724-4027

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Email Address: bhrspc@co.merced.ca.us

Eligibility: Conservatorship referral criteria-LPS-Grave disability due to a mental disorder and unable to provide for their food, clothing, or shelter. Probate-Unable to provide for their food, clothing or shelter due to a disabling medical condition

**FAQ:**

* What is conservatorship:
  + The legal process for someone to make decisions for another person. Conservatorship is for adults and for children it is called a guardianship.
* What is LPS conservatorship?
  + The legal process for the county to make decisions for persons who cannot take care of their basic needs because of a mental illness.
* Fee for conservatorship:
* The filing fee for this initial petition for Conservatorship is $465.00.  There is also a $650.00 investigation fee due upon filing. That brings the total amount of fees to $1,115.00.  You also have the right to file a request for waiver of the fee.