

What was the Britney Spears conservatorship, and how did it work?

Key facts

- A Los Angeles County probate court placed Britney Spears under a temporary conservatorship on February 1, 2008, made permanent October 28, 2008, with her father James "Jamie" Spears as conservator (CBS News, checked 2026-09-25).
- It was a conservatorship of both the person and the estate: the court gave someone else authority over her daily life and finances at once (CBS News, checked 2026-09-25).
- Jodi Montgomery took over as conservator of the person in September 2019 after Jamie Spears temporarily stepped aside, while Jamie Spears kept control of the estate (NBC News, checked 2026-09-25).
- Britney Spears told the court on June 23, 2021 that the conservatorship was "abusive" and that she wanted it to end, the first time she had addressed the judge directly in the case (Time, checked 2026-09-25).
- Court filings reported that Jamie Spears personally received \$6,314,307.99 from the conservatorship over its life, while petitions sought more than \$30 million total in fees for the various law firms involved (NBC News, checked 2026-09-25).
- Judge Brenda Penny suspended Jamie Spears as conservator on September 29, 2021, and terminated the entire conservatorship on November 12, 2021, after nearly 14 years (CBS News, checked 2026-09-25).
- California's statewide fee to file a conservatorship petition is \$435, before any attorney, evaluation or bond costs, which is what made the case expensive to run for over a decade (California Courts, Statewide Civil Fee Schedule, checked 2026-09-25).

Checklist: how a conservatorship case typically moves through court

- ☐ A crisis or a pattern of concern leads a relative to consider filing
- ☐ Less restrictive options, such as a power of attorney or supported decision-making, are ruled out
- ☐ A petition is filed with the probate or trial court where the person lives
- ☐ The court orders a medical or capacity evaluation
- ☐ Notice is served on the proposed conservatee and close relatives
- ☐ A hearing is held; a judge decides whether to grant the petition
- ☐ If granted, letters of conservatorship are issued and any required bond is posted
- ☐ The court schedules a first-year review, then periodic reviews after that
- ☐ The conservatee, the conservator or another interested party can later petition to end it
- ☐ A hearing on that petition decides whether the conservatorship is still needed

