

When did Britney's conservatorship end, and how did the case actually work?

Key facts

- Judge Brenda Penny terminated Britney Spears' conservatorship on November 12, 2021, ending an arrangement that had run since 2008 (CBS News, checked 2026-09-30).
- The conservatorship began as a temporary order on February 1, 2008, the day after a psychiatric hospitalization, and was made permanent on October 28, 2008 (CBS News, Timeline: Britney's Meltdown, checked 2026-09-30).
- Britney Spears first addressed the court directly on June 23, 2021, telling the judge the conservatorship was "abusive" and that she wanted it to end (Time, checked 2026-09-30).
- Her father, Jamie Spears, was suspended as conservator of the estate on September 29, 2021, six weeks before the case was terminated entirely (NPR, checked 2026-09-25).
- Court filings showed Jamie Spears personally received \$6,314,307.99 over the life of the case, while the various law firms involved sought more than \$30 million total in fees, all paid from her own estate (NBC News, checked 2026-09-25).
- California's 2022 conservatorship reform law, AB 1663, was written partly in response to her case; it requires courts to document less restrictive alternatives before granting a conservatorship and writes "supported decision-making" into state law for the first time (California Legislative Information, AB 1663, checked 2026-09-30).
- California's statewide fee just to file a conservatorship petition is \$435, before any attorney, evaluation or bond costs, one reason a case that runs over a decade gets so expensive (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 a supported decision-making agreement, are ruled out and documented
- ☐ 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

