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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Katharine L. Elliott, Interim County Counsel *KLE*

SUBJECT: Resolution Delegating County Counsel the Authority to Present Petitions Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6500

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

BACKGROUND: The Office of the County Counsel serves as in-house counsel and provides a wide array of legal services for the County of Mendocino, including representing the Public Guardian in conservatorship filings including Murphy Conservatorships, conservatorships established under the LPS Act where the individual being conserved has been charged with a felony involving death, great bodily harm, or a serious threat to the physical well-being of another person.

The Welfare and Institutions Code 6500 provides a legal framework for the involuntary commitment of individuals with developmental disabilities who pose a danger, balancing public safety with the rights of the individual. Commitments are reviewed annually, and placement is tailored to the least restrictive environment that meets the person's treatment and safety needs.

The Code provides that the District Attorney shall present such filings to the Superior Court unless the board of supervisors, by ordinance or resolution, delegates this authority to the county counsel. The District Attorney's office is in agreement with this delegation.

KLE/lb