What was the Amanda Bynes conservatorship, and how did it end?

Key facts

- Amanda Bynes was placed under a conservatorship in August 2013, at age 27, after an involuntary psychiatric hold that followed a small fire she was accused of setting in a driveway near her parents' Thousand Oaks, California home (CBS News Los Angeles, checked 2026-09-22).
- Her mother, Lynn Bynes, was the primary conservator, named in August 2013 and continuing until the case ended in March 2022; the arrangement briefly lapsed that September, and a new temporary conservatorship over her finances was granted jointly to Lynn and her father, Richard Bynes, in October 2014 (CBS News, checked 2026-09-25; NPR, checked 2026-09-22).
- It was a general probate conservatorship of the person and estate, a different legal category from California's mental-health LPS conservatorship, even though it began right after a psychiatric hold (California Courts Self-Help Guide, checked 2026-09-22).
- Bynes filed her own petition to end the conservatorship on February 23, 2022, and her parents fully supported it (NBC News, checked 2026-09-22).
- Ventura County Superior Court Judge Roger L. Lund terminated the conservatorship on March 22, 2022, ruling that "the conservatorship is no longer required and that grounds for establishment of a conservatorship of the person no longer exist" (CBS News, checked 2026-09-22).
- Disability rights attorneys say it is unusual for a court to grant termination this smoothly once the conservator and conservatee agree; one called Bynes's case "more an anomaly in the system than the norm" (NBC News, checked 2026-09-22).
- About 1.3 million adults are under a guardianship or conservatorship nationwide, controlling roughly $50 billion in assets, though nationwide data collection is inconsistent (Justice in Aging, checked 2026-09-22).

Checklist: how a case like this typically moves through court

- [ ] A crisis or 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