

BRITNEY SPEARS CONSERVATORSHIP, what is it?

Pop superstar Britney Spears' conservatorship battle has been at the forefront of news headlines, leaving many of us questioning, what a conservatorship actually is, and why Britney at the age of 38, is still legally controlled by her father, Jamie Spears and other guardians.



Since 2008 Britney's career, including all of her financial affairs, and her as a person, have been controlled by Mr Spears and other guardians that were ordered by a Court, in an arrangement called a conservatorship, at a time when she faced a public mental health crisis, which resulted in hospitalisation and rehab.

The conservatorship restricted large aspects of Britney's life, ranging from who she dated, whether she could have children, even to the colour of her kitchen cabinets in her own home.

But what is a conservatorship?

A conservatorship is granted by a court for individuals who are unable to make their own decisions, for example for those people suffering with dementia or other mental illnesses.

Britney's conservatorship is split into two parts. One is for her estate and financial affairs; the other is for her as a person.

Mr Spears was initially in charge of both parts of the conservatorship, but he stepped down as his daughter's personal conservator in 2019, due to his own health reasons. Jodi Montgomery, a care professional, replaced him on a temporary basis, but Britney has since requested that this be made permanent.

Court records showed that the pop star had voiced serious opposition to the conservatorship, much prior to when it was reported to the Court. In November 2020, a judge declined to remove Mr Spears but named financial firm the Bessemer Trust as a co-conservator of her estate instead. A month later, the judge extended Mr Spears' conservatorship until September 2021.

With Britney herself desperate to be free from the legally binding arrangement, and her fans and other celebrities convinced that she should be free of the conservatorship, fans launched the #FreeBritney movement, utilising social media to bring awareness to the discrepancies surrounding the conservatorship.

Whilst there may have been a reason for the initial conservatorship to be initiated, it is difficult to see why this should still be in place, whilst Britney has made compelling arguments for it now to be lifted.

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Hatti Suvari, Consumer
Advocate and host of podcast
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