

CARE Primitives Spec v1.0

Locked primitive set | Date: 2026-04-28 | Public reference: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19852764>

Purpose

This document names CARE's current primitive set explicitly so the framework can be compared, tested, and referenced without relying on comment-thread paraphrase.

Primitive	Definition	Invariant
Bind	The execution-time act that permits a transition to become system reality.	No bind -> no effect.
Admissibility	The condition that a candidate transition must satisfy at execution.	Admissibility is perishable and must be current at bind.
Execution-time validation	Validation performed at the moment consequence would be produced.	Earlier approval does not persist as authority.
Non-bypassability	No direct or indirect path may produce consequence outside bind.	Any bypass path falsifies governance.
Fail-closed semantics	If admissibility is missing, uncertain, stale, or invalid, the system collapses to non-realization.	Uncertainty cannot become effect.
State equivalence at bind	The state relied upon must be identical to the state that binds.	Referenced state is not binding state unless equivalence is proven.
Proof-bound effect release	Effect may be released only through a valid bind supported by current proof.	Proof supports bind; proof does not replace bind.
Proof Substrate Irrelevance	The substrate producing proof may be wrong, stale, compromised, or adversarial.	Substrate failure must not produce consequence.
Incorrect-Proof Non-Executability	Incorrect proof may exist but must not be executable.	Most systems try to make proof correct. CARE makes incorrect proof non-executable.
Consequence falsification	Any unauthorized effect path invalidates the governance claim.	A single effect path is enough to fail.

Layer separation

Layer	Role	Authority over system reality
Upstream	Rules, models, constraints, mandates, policies, formalization, evidence chains.	No direct authority. May shape possibility and define legitimacy.
Execution boundary	Current admissibility check and bind decision.	Only authority surface for consequence.
Effect surface	The system behavior that becomes externally or internally consequential.	Permitted only through valid bind.

Canonical locked line

Governance is not what defines the rules. Governance is what determines whether rules can produce consequence.

Non-claim boundary

CARE does not claim ownership of the principle 'no consequence without valid bind.' CARE defines the execution-boundary condition under which that principle becomes non-bypassable.