

What is Pretrial Services?

Pretrial Services (PTS) provides judicial officers with crucial defendant background information so that they may make more informed release and bond decisions. Pretrial Supervision is available for qualified individuals awaiting trial. Through appropriate supervision, PTS reduces failure to appear rates and provides defendants with services necessary to ensure their appearance at Court for trial. Pretrial differs from Probation Supervision since the individuals being supervised are out on bond, awaiting trial and have not been found guilty of the alleged offense.

What Pretrial Services offer:

Investigations

- Jail-based screening and investigations
 - Interview defendants at the local jail the morning after their arrest
- Defendant interviews
 - Document defendants' residence, employment, alcohol/drug use, physical and mental health, probation supervision and criminal history
- Criminal history background checks
- Reference checks/verification of community ties
 - Contact the reference provided by the defendant to verify their information
- Risk-assessment bond recommendations
 - Use VPRAI (VA Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument) to determine risk level and PRAXIS as the guidelines for release recommendations and supervision levels
- Reports and recommendations provided to the Court

Supervision

- Risk-based supervision levels
 - Offer differing supervision levels including once per month (level 1), twice per month (level 2) and once per week (level 3)
- Alcohol and drug testing
 - Conduct breathalyzers and urine drug screens and can provide lab confirmation
- Progress/Update and Violation letters to the Court
- Monitor specialized programs and services including
 - Substance abuse evaluation and follow-up with treatment recommendations
 - Mental health evaluation and follow-up with treatment recommendations
 - Reentry Services
 - Drug Court (Charlottesville/Albemarle)

What Pretrial Services is prohibited from:

- Supervising community service or restitution obligations
- Supervising clients after they have been sentenced