

The Pretrial Services Agency's Mission

The mission of the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) is to promote pretrial justice and community safety by assisting judicial officers in making appropriate release decisions, and by providing supervision and pro-social interventions to defendants released into the community.

PSA's Role in the Criminal Justice System

The District of Columbia criminal justice system is made up of numerous agencies. PSA performs two critical tasks that contribute significantly to the effective administration of justice and enhancement of public safety.

PSA *gathers and presents information* about newly arrested defendants and about available release options for use by judicial officers in deciding what, if any, conditions are to be set for released defendants. Given the fact that every arrested person is presumed to be innocent, there is also a presumption that arrested persons are entitled to be released pending their court proceedings. A judicial officer—a judge or magistrate judge—makes the initial pretrial release decision after taking into account the representations of the prosecutor and defense attorney, as well as PSA's release recommendation. PSA provides objective, verified data about each defendant to assist in judicial decision-making. PSA recommendations are designed to manage the flight and public safety risk associated with releasing defendants.

PSA *supervises defendants* released from custody during the pretrial period by monitoring their compliance with conditions of release. Depending on the level of risk posed by the defendant, PSA supervision consists of: contact, drug testing, curfew, electronic monitoring and sanction-based treatment. All PSA supervision programs give defendants the opportunity to participate in pro-social interventions that decrease the likelihood of future criminal behavior. Throughout the pretrial release period, PSA notifies the court and the prosecutors of violation of the release conditions.

Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia

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For more information, a PDF copy of *The Guide to PSA's Programs and Services* is available at www.psa.gov

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The Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) is an independent entity within the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). It was certified as a federal agency under the Executive Branch of government in August 2000. PSA has served the Nation's Capital for more than 40 years.

PSA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PSA operates several programs and provides a variety of services to the DC Superior Court, the U.S. District Court, the community, and the defendants it is responsible for supervising. A general overview is provided below.

Court Support

PSA provides court support through the work of the **Diagnostic Unit** and **Release Services Unit**, which conduct interviews, criminal history investigations, and risk assessments for most arrestees in Superior Court and District Court. This includes obtaining background information on defendants charged with federal criminal violations and DC criminal, traffic, and regulatory violations; preparing bail reports and recommendations on release conditions; monitoring evening curfew and location monitoring conditions; investigating failures to appear; and resolving outstanding bench warrants.

The **Drug Testing and Compliance Unit** collects samples from defendants and provides reports on compliance with drug testing conditions.

The **Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory** is responsible for the collection, analysis, and documentation of all drug tests of defendants ordered by the Superior Court and District Court and for offenders (persons previously convicted who are on probation, parole, or supervised release) under the supervision of CSOSA; as well as respondents ordered into testing by the Family Court Division of the Superior Court. The Laboratory conducts and documents the full range of forensic screening and confirmation analyses that detects drug use; provides testimony and interpretation of data to the courts, PSA and CSOSA staff; and provides expert consultation necessary for supervision and management of individuals in pretrial and post-sentence status.

Defendant Supervision

PSA supervises defendants awaiting trial and pending sentencing in Superior Court and District Court. This includes supervision of defendants' compliance with the conditions of release imposed by the Court and assistance in meeting those conditions; referrals for treatment or other intervention services; notifying defendants of future court dates; reporting to the Court on defendants' pretrial status and compliance with conditions of release; recommending resolution of non-compliance or other pretrial issues; documenting information and reporting or testifying as required; and providing reciprocal supervision of defendants charged in other jurisdictions.

The various supervision programs include **General Supervision Unit**, **High Intensity Supervision Program**, **U.S. District Court Supervision**.

Defendant Treatment and Support

While under PSA supervision, defendants have the opportunity to participate in a variety of pro-social interventions in an effort to decrease the likelihood of future criminal behavior. These are described below.

The **Superior Court Drug Intervention Program** (Drug Court), a substance abuse and supervision program for defendants charged with non-violent offenses. The **New Directions Program** provides supervision and substance abuse treatment for defendants charged with felony and misdemeanor offenses. Other functions of the programs include conducting evaluations of defendants and making recommendations to the court on program eligibility; developing and administering treatment protocols; documenting and reporting to the court on defendants' supervision and treatment status; and providing recommendations to resolve non-compliance.

The **Specialized Supervision (Mental Health) Unit** provides services to defendants with mental health and dual-diagnosis needs, as well as community-based supervision and services to defendants in order to assist them in meeting pretrial obligations. Staff of the **Social Services and Assessment Center** work with and support the other pretrial units by assessing treatment and other needs of defendants; identifying community and social services; referring defendants for services; monitoring defendants receiving services; and evaluating service providers.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS

[500 Indiana Avenue, NW—DC Superior Court](#)

Diagnostic Unit

202-585-7030 (Room C-225)

Release Services Unit

202-585-7077 (Room C-301)

Drug Testing and Compliance Unit

Adult Drug Testing

202-585-7060 (Room C-220)

Juvenile Drug Testing

202-585-7050 (Room C-210)

[601 Indiana Avenue, NW—PSA](#)

General Supervision Units

202-585-7955 (2nd and 3rd Floors)

DC Misdemeanor/Traffic Initiative

202-585-7955 (7th Floor)

Specialized Supervision Unit

202-585-7200 (9th Floor)

[633 Indiana Avenue, NW—PSA](#)

Office of the Director

202-220-5500 (Suite 1120)

High Intensity Supervision Program

202-220-5530 (Suite 1020)

Social Services and Assessment Center

202-220-5770 (Suite 1080)

Drug Court Program

202-220-5505 (Suite 920)

New Directions Program

202-220-5570 (Suite 920)

Satellite Drug Testing Unit

202-220-5546 (9th Floor)

[333 Constitution Avenue, NW](#) [US District Court](#)

District Court Unit

202-442-1000 (Suite 2507)