



PSA Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia

Promoting pretrial justice and enhancing community safety

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Risk-based supervision and treatment options to support compliance with release conditions

ABOUT PSA

The Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) is an independent entity within the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). PSA was established as a federal agency in 2000. From 1967 through 2000, PSA operated as an agency of the DC Government. In 2017, PSA celebrated 50 years of service to the Nation's Capital.



PSA operates a variety of programs that provide an array of services to the DC Superior Court (DCSC), the US District Court for the District of Columbia (USDC) and the defendants we supervise.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

The **Diagnostic Unit** interviews and reviews the criminal history of defendants arrested and charged with certain DC Code offenses and US Code offenses in the DCSC. This information is used to assess each defendant's likelihood of appearing in court when required and remaining arrest-free while awaiting trial. This is called a "risk assessment."

We then recommend to the court what, if any, release conditions can be ordered that will reasonably assure a defendant's appearance in court and public safety.

SUPERVISION SERVICES

Immediately after defendants are released, they report to the **Release Services Unit** to review conditions of release. This helps support the transition to supervision and compliance with the Court's expectations.

PSA supervises most defendants awaiting trial or sentencing in DCSC and USDC. This includes monitoring defendants' compliance with release conditions and reporting this information to the court.

Common supervision requirements include reporting to a Pretrial Services Officer (PSO), drug testing, and curfew or electronic monitoring.

PSA's supervision components include the General Supervision Unit (GSU), High Intensity Supervision Program (HISP), and Traffic Safety and Supervision Unit (TSSU).

TREATMENT INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

PSA also operates programs designed for defendants with substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment needs.

The **Social Services and Assessment Center (SSAC)** assesses defendants' treatment needs and assists PSOs in making appropriate referrals for treatment services.

The **Drug Court** is a substance use disorder treatment and supervision program for defendants charged with misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. Participants receive appropriate treatment and, upon completion of the program, may have misdemeanor charges dismissed or received favorable sentencing on or reduction of felony charges.

The **Specialized Supervision Unit (SSU)** provides services to defendants with mental health or a combination of substance use disorder and mental health treatment needs to assist them in meeting pretrial obligations.

DRUG TESTING SERVICES

PSA operates a comprehensive testing program for pretrial defendants, as well as individuals supervised by CSOSA and certain juveniles and respondents with cases in DCSC Family Court.

The **Drug Testing and Compliance Unit (DTCU)** collects urine and oral fluid samples from PSA defendants and Family Court juveniles and respondents.

The **Office of Forensic Toxicology Services (OFTS)** performs urine and oral fluid screening for up to nine drugs of abuse, including synthetic compounds, and uses gas chromatograph/mass spectrometry (GC-MS) to confirm test results. Toxicologists conduct levels analyses to distinguish new use from residual to provide timely and accurate results for pretrial decision-making.

OUR ROLE IN THE SYSTEM

PSA performs two critical tasks that contribute to the effective administration of justice and enhancement of community safety in the District of Columbia.

PSA gathers information about newly arrested defendants and makes recommendations to the Courts about what, if any, release conditions can be set to reasonably assure that each defendant will appear in court when required and remain arrest-free while awaiting trial.

Every arrested person is presumed innocent and, in DC, is presumed entitled to release before trial.

A judge uses PSA's recommendations, along with representations from the prosecutor and defense attorney, to make the release decision.

For released defendants, PSA provides supervision in accordance with the judge's orders and the defendant's assessed risk level.

Non-compliance with release conditions is discouraged through the use of graduated sanctions, which may include increased reporting and/or drug testing and court notification. Compliance is encouraged through the use of incentives, including reduced supervision obligations.

IMPORTANT LOCATIONS AND NUMBERS

500 INDIANA AVENUE, NW DC SUPERIOR COURT

- **Diagnostic Unit**
Room C-225 | 202-585-7030
- **Release Services Unit**
Room C-301 | 202-585-7077
- **DTCU Adult Drug Testing**
Room C-220 | 202-585-7060
- **DTCU Juvenile Drug Testing**
Room C-210 | 202-585-7050

601 INDIANA AVENUE, NW

- **General Supervision Units**
2nd, 3rd and 10th Floors
202-585-7955
- **SSAC**
9th Floor | 202-442-1660
- **Traffic Safety and Supervision Unit**
9th Floor | 202-442-1920

633 INDIANA AVENUE, NW PSA HEADQUARTERS

- **Director's Office**
11th Floor | 202-220-5500
- **Specialized Supervision Unit**
9th Floor | 202-220-5556
- **Drug Court**
10th Floor | 202-220-5505
- **High Intensity Supervision Program**
10th Floor | 202-220-5530

333 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW US DISTRICT COURT

- Room 2507 | 202-442-1000