



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

PSA is a federal executive branch agency that supports the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (DC Superior Court) and US District Court for the District of Columbia (US District Court) by interviewing and assessing arrested persons and making release recommendations used at a person's initial appearance in court. When persons awaiting trial are released to the community, we supervise them with a range of supervision options that ensure they return to court and remain arrest-free. 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, the US District Court and the defendants we supervise.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

The Diagnostic Unit interviews defendants arrested and charged with crimes and reviews their criminal histories to assess each person'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.

We supervise most defendants awaiting trial or sentencing in DC Superior Court and US District Court. 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.

TREATMENT INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

We also operate 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

We operate 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 Unit** collects urine and oral fluid samples from PSA defendants and Family Court juveniles and respondents.

The **Office of Forensic Toxicology Services** performs drug testing in urine and oral fluid specimens and can screen for up to 11 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

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

We gather 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 our recommendations, along with representations from the prosecutor and defense attorney, to make the release decision.

For released defendants, we provide 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
- **Drug Testing Unit - Adults**
Room C-220 | 202-585-7060
- **Drug Testing Unit - Juveniles**
Room C-210 | 202-585-7050

601 INDIANA AVENUE, NW

- **General Supervision Units**
2nd, 3rd and 10th Floors
202-585-7955
- **Social Services and Assessment Center**
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