

Using the Public Safety Assessment (PSA)

Following a person's arrest, a judge must decide whether that person should:



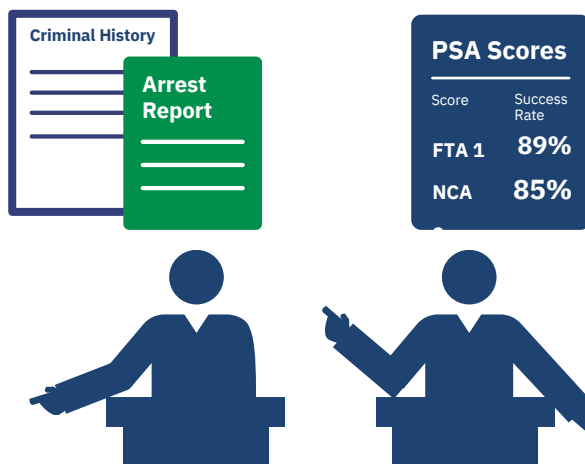
The U.S. Constitution requires that release be the norm, and detention be the carefully limited exception. Washington law requires release unless the court determines the person will not return to court or there is a substantial danger the person may commit a violent crime.



When releasing a person, a judge may impose conditions so long as they are the least restrictive necessary to support the person's return to court and law-abiding behavior.



A judge considers all relevant information, including prosecutor and defense counsel arguments and the person's circumstances. The PSA adds research-based information about the estimated likelihood of court appearance and remaining arrest-free while on pretrial release.



The PSA scores are calculated using nine factors.

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|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Age at current arrest | Current violent offense | Pending charge at the time of arrest |
| Prior misdemeanor conviction | Prior felony conviction | Prior violent conviction |
| Prior failure to appear in the past 2 years | Prior failure to appear older than 2 years | Prior sentence to incarceration |

advancingpretrial.org/PSA/factors

A jurisdiction may create release recommendations that associate PSA scores with the least restrictive conditions designed to help people succeed while on pretrial release. The judge may consider the PSA scores in setting conditions of release, if any, to reasonably assure a person's court appearance and arrest free behavior.



The PSA can enhance the transparency and consistency of pretrial decisions. When used with other pretrial improvements, the PSA has helped jurisdictions achieve higher rates of release and lower use of financial conditions, with no negative impact on crime or court appearance rates.



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Learn about advancing pretrial justice and the PSA at:

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/pretrial-services/advancing-pretrial-justice>