

Thurston County Pretrial Services

Pretrial programs are an important part of an effective justice system. These programs provide information that supports informed pretrial decisions and supervise those on pretrial release.

Pretrial Services
Thurston County
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Pretrial Services: Supporting Informed Pretrial Decisions

When a person is arrested and booked into jail, Thurston County Pretrial Services (TCPS) gather information and share it with the court, the prosecutor, and defense counsel before the first appearance hearing. Pretrial services staff:

- Verify background and criminal history information;
- Interview the accused person; and
- Complete a pretrial assessment that estimates the likelihood a person will attend court hearings and remain law-abiding.

Initial Appearance Hearing

The initial appearance hearing is often the first time a person can contest charges and argue for release from jail. A judge receives information from TCPS, hears arguments from the prosecutor and defense counsel, and determines what, if any, conditions need to be imposed to provide reasonable assurance of court appearance, community safety and wellbeing—or, in rare cases, whether the person needs to be detained.

A judge must follow the law when determining pretrial release or detention. The U.S. and Washington constitutions say that release conditions must be the *least* restrictive necessary to provide reasonable assurance of appearance and community safety.

Pretrial Services: Improving Pretrial Outcomes

If a person is eligible for release, release conditions are set, and the judge may require pretrial monitoring. Most people succeed during the pretrial phase.

Pretrial services staff may provide the following if ordered by the court:

- Text or email court date reminders.
- Criminal history checks.
- Electronic or in-person contact with TCPS.
- After court in-person check-in.
- Electronic monitoring.
- Systems Continuous Alcohol Monitoring

Supportive Services

TCPS may make referrals to other community resources to support an individual's other social needs. Common needs include housing, substance use treatment, mental health services, childcare, parenting and life skills, food, employment, education, and transportation.

Research-Informed Best Practices

TCPS continues to advance best practices. Research has demonstrated that a service-delivery approach to criminal justice—one that emphasizes treatment and support—is more effective than one based on punishment.

Learn more at thurstoncountywa.gov/pts/