

BACKGROUND

The Pretrial Release program aims to reduce the frequency of unnecessary incarceration in the jail by assessing the defendant's qualifications for release on his/her own recognizance, based on non-financial conditions. When a defendant is not at risk of absconding and has no holds or warrants, the court may review the recommendation to be released and allow the Pretrial Release program to supervise a defendant while awaiting disposition for their case. Every admission in the jail is screened for eligibility (using our point scale based on employment, living situation, roots to the community, risk assessment, past criminal history, mental health and substance abuse history, etc.) and those who meet the guidelines for release are referred to the arraigning judge for review, who makes the final decision. If released, that defendant is monitored until their case is closed. This time frame varies case to case. The longest time amount of time we have supervised a defendant on PTR is two years (and counting). The average time ranges from six to nine months.