

Template Pamphlet About Pretrial Services

Note: This pamphlet should be combined with or used in addition to any materials that will help people contact you and locate your office.

Welcome to [Name of Organization, such as Jones County Pretrial Services or Smith County Community Corrections]!

Our organization offers pretrial services to people ordered to report to us by a judge. [Insert your organization's vision and mission statement, such as, "Our mission is to support people on pretrial release, preserve community safety, and enhance the efficiency of the court system."]

We are here to support you while your case is pending.

Pretrial services is **not** probation. You have not been convicted of an offense. You are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Our organization exists to help you return to court for future court appearances, support you in complying with court-ordered conditions, and offer you services that may help you meet your basic needs.

Our services respond to meet your needs.

Each person assigned to pretrial services has different life circumstances. Our support will adjust based on your needs as they relate to community safety and court appearance.

Depending on what the court orders as part of your conditions of pretrial release and your needs, our services may include:

- Regular check-ins, usually by phone
- Automated court date reminders
- Offers of supportive services, such as transportation vouchers and referrals to social services (substance use, mental health, housing, healthcare, etc.)
- Location monitoring, alcohol monitoring, or drug testing (only if court-ordered)

Your goal while on pretrial supervision is to comply with all court-ordered conditions. Those conditions include appearing in court for all hearings and not

getting arrested during the pretrial period. Other conditions may include:

- [List the common conditions in your jurisdiction, such as staying in state, curfews, etc.]

Our job is to help you do exactly that. **We want you to succeed.**

Frequently Asked Questions About Pretrial Services

[Review and tailor all responses based on your local policies and practices. The answers provided are examples only and may not reflect your local policies and practices.]

Does your organization provide me with a court-appointed lawyer?

No. Our role is to help you comply with your court-ordered pretrial release conditions.

Do I meet with pretrial staff in person?

Usually, you will contact your assigned pretrial staff member by phone. However, there may be circumstances where in-person reporting is necessary.

Are conversations with pretrial staff confidential?

For the most part. If you tell pretrial staff about behavior that violates your court-ordered conditions, they may have to report that behavior to their supervisor or the judge.

How can I access social services or community resources?

We can help with that! Speak to pretrial staff about your needs and ask for their support to connect you with the services and supports that you need.

What happens if I miss a court appearance?

If you miss a court hearing, the court may issue a bench warrant for your arrest. It is never in your best interest to miss a court appearance. Speak to pretrial staff and your lawyer ahead of time if you have a conflict with a court hearing.

Will I get put in jail if I show up for my next court hearing?

Most likely no. However, if you have an outstanding warrant for a serious crime, you could be placed in custody until the court holds the first court hearing.

I'm having trouble with my pretrial case manager. Is there someone else I can speak to or a place where I can provide feedback?

Yes, you can call our office and speak to a supervisor. The number is XXX-XXXX.

While on pretrial, is it ok to use my medical weed card?

Speak to pretrial staff to see what your conditions are. Look specifically for any conditions about use and possession of marijuana.

My employer expects me to travel for work. Is this something I can still do?

You will likely be able to obtain a travel pass for work, through discussions with your assigned pretrial staff.

Questions You Should Ask Pretrial Staff

- If you need it, ask pretrial staff for a copy of your court order.
- What fines, fees, or other costs am I required to pay? Can any be waived due to my family and economic situation?

- Do you know of any resources to support childcare, housing, or substance misuse?
- Are there any peer supports or navigators available to be during this time?
- I can't afford to pay for drug testing. What should I do?
- I have to miss work to attend my next court hearing. But I could get fired. What should I do?
- I can't afford the fee to go to counseling. What's going to happen?
- My partner is on probation. Does that matter?
- Will I have to submit to a drug and alcohol test even if I was arrested for theft?
- Someone told me that I may get a curfew. Is this correct?