

Using the Public Safety Assessment (PSA)

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



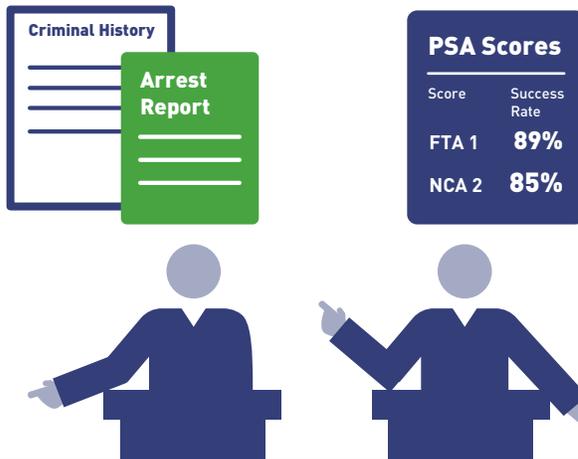
The U.S. Constitution requires that release be the norm, and detention be the carefully limited exception. State laws typically place further restrictions on who may be detained.



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.



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 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.



Release Level =
Release on Recognizance



Release Level =
Pretrial Services

