

## D.C. Pretrial Services Agency's Mission

The mission of the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency (PSA) is to assess, supervise and provide services for defendants, and to collaborate with the justice community, to assist the courts in making pretrial release decisions. PSA promotes community safety and return to court while honoring the constitutional presumption of innocence.

## PSA's Role in the Criminal Justice System

The District of Columbia criminal justice system is made up of numerous agencies. PSA performs two critically important tasks that contribute significantly to the effective administration of justice and enhancement of public safety.

PSA *gathers and presents information* about newly arrested defendants and about available release options for use by judicial officers in deciding what, if any, conditions are to be set for released defendants. Given the fact that every arrested person is presumed to be innocent, there is also a presumption that arrested persons are entitled to be released pending their court proceedings. A judicial officer—a judge or magistrate judge—makes the initial pretrial release decision after taking into account the representations of the prosecutor and defense attorney, as well as PSA's release recommendation. PSA provides objective, verified data about each defendant to assist in judicial decision-making. PSA recommendations are designed to manage the flight and public safety risk associated with releasing defendants.

PSA *supervises defendants* released from custody during the pretrial period by monitoring their compliance with conditions of release. Depending on the level of risk posed by the defendant, PSA supervision consists of: contact, drug testing, curfew, electronic monitoring and sanction-based treatment. All PSA supervision programs give defendants the opportunity to participate in pro-social interventions that decrease the likelihood of future criminal behavior. Throughout the pretrial release period, PSA notifies the court and the prosecutors of violation of the release conditions.

### District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency

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**Susan W. Shaffer**  
Director



**WWW.PSA.GOV**

For more information about PSA,  
a downloadable guide is available  
at the following location:

[http://www.psa.gov/insidetheagency/  
DCPSAGuide.pdf](http://www.psa.gov/insidetheagency/DCPSAGuide.pdf)

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**District of  
Columbia  
Pretrial  
Services  
Agency**



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**The District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency (PSA) is an independent entity within the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). It was certified as a federal agency under the Executive Branch of government in August 2000. PSA has served the Nation's Capital for 40 years.**

### **PSA Offices and Services**

PSA provides a variety of services to the D.C. Superior Court, the U.S. District Court, the community, and the defendants it is responsible for supervising. A general overview is provided below.

### **Court Services**

The Court Services program, through the work of the Diagnostic Unit, conducts interviews, criminal history investigations, and risk assessments for most arrestees in Superior Court and District Court. Its functions include: conducting interviews with and researching background information on defendants charged with federal criminal violations, D.C. criminal, traffic, and regulatory violations; preparing bail reports and recommendations on release conditions; monitoring evening curfew and electronic monitoring conditions; investigating failures to appear; and resolving outstanding bench warrants.

### **Supervision**

The Supervision program supervises defendants awaiting trial and pending sentencing in Superior Court and Dis-

trict Court. Its functions include supervision of defendants' compliance with the conditions of release imposed by the court and assistance in meeting those conditions; referrals for treatment or other intervention services; notifying defendants of future court dates; reporting to the court on defendants' pretrial status and compliance with conditions of release; recommending resolution of non-compliance or other pretrial issues; documenting information and reporting or testifying as required; and providing reciprocal supervision of defendants charged in other jurisdictions.

### **Treatment**

The Treatment program manages the Superior Court Drug Intervention Program, a substance abuse and supervision program for defendants charged with non-violent offenses, as well as the New Directions Program which provides supervision and substance abuse treatment for defendants charged with felony and misdemeanor offenses. Other functions include: conducting evaluations of defendants and making recommendations to the court on program eligibility; developing and administering treatment protocols; documenting and reporting to the court on defendants' supervision and treatment status; and providing recommendations to resolve non-compliance. The Specialized Supervision Unit provides services to defendants with mental health and dual-diagnosis needs, as well as community-based supervision and services to defendants in order to assist them in meeting pretrial obligations. Staff of the Social Services and Assessment Center work with and support the other pretrial units by assessing treatment and other needs of defendants; identifying community and social services; referring defendants for services; monitoring defendants receiving services; and evaluating service providers. The Branch also establishes and coordinates partnerships with community-based service providers.

### **Drug Testing and Compliance Unit — Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory**

The Drug Testing and Compliance Unit collects samples and provides reports on defendants' compliance with drug testing conditions.

The Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory is responsible for the collection, analysis, and documentation of all drug tests of defendants ordered by the Superior Court and District Court and for offenders (persons previously convicted who are on probation, parole, or supervised release) under the supervision of CSOSA. The Laboratory conducts and documents the full range of forensic screening and confirmation analyses that detects drug use; provides testimony and interpretation of data to the courts, PSA and CSOSA staff; and provides expert consultation necessary for supervision and management of individuals in pretrial and post-sentence status.

### **Important Numbers and Locations**

#### **500 Indiana Avenue NW**

**Diagnostic Unit** (Room C-225)  
202-585-7030/202-585-7091 (fax)

**Release Services Unit** (Room C-301)  
202-585-7077/202-585-7093 (fax)

**Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing  
Laboratory** (Room C-220)  
202-585-7070/202-585-7094 (fax)

#### **Drug Testing and Compliance Unit**

**Adult Testing** (Room C-220)  
202-585-7060/202-585-7092 (fax)

**Juvenile Testing** (Room C-210)  
202-585-7050/202-585-7092 (fax)

#### **633 Indiana Avenue NW**

**Office of the Director** Suite 1120  
202-220-5500/202-220-5618 (fax)

**High Intensity Supervision  
Program** Suite 1020  
202-220-5530/202-220-5565 (fax)  
**Social Services and Assessment  
Center** Suite 1080  
202-220-5770/202-220-5595 (fax)  
**Drug Court Program** Suite 920  
202-220-5505/202-220-5513 (fax)  
**New Directions Program**  
Suite 920  
202-220-5570/202-220-5660 (fax)

#### **601 Indiana Avenue NW**

**General Supervision Unit**  
2nd & 3rd floors  
202-585-7955  
202-585-7982 (fax - 2nd floor)  
202-585-7983 (fax - 3rd floor)

#### **300 Indiana Avenue NW**

**Specialized Supervision Unit**  
Suite 1136  
202-585-7200/202-585-7211 (fax)

**Forensic Toxicology Drug  
Testing Laboratory** Suite 6150  
202-585-7257/202-585-7284 (fax)

#### **United States District Court 333 Constitution Avenue, NW**

**District Court Unit**  
Suite 2507  
202-442-1000/202-442-1001 (fax)