

Second Judicial District Court's Pretrial Services program operates according to legal and evidence-based best practices and has been nationally recognized as a model program. Since 2016, in cooperation with Bernalillo County, the PTS division has emphasized implementing evidence-based practices in pretrial supervision across the board to increase public safety and release with an emphasis on risk-based assessment versus the ability to pay to be released. Pretrial Services completes background checks for individuals charged with a crime, conducts risk assessments, and provides supervision for defendants with a variety of backgrounds. Supervision includes the use of regular check-ins with a pretrial case manager, court reminder phone calls, connection with mental health and other service providers, drug and alcohol testing, and electronic monitoring when ordered by a judge. Roughly 80% of the individuals placed on pretrial supervision complete their time on pretrial without being charged with an additional crime. More than 95% of individuals complete their time on pretrial supervision without picking up a violent charge.

When GPS monitoring is court-ordered, PTS monitors GPS in cooperation with the Bernalillo County's Detention Center Community Custody Program. Through that partnership, individuals are monitored 24 hours, 7 days a week. Violations of GPS restrictions, as well as other violations of conditions, are reported to the Court and the parties. NMRA 5-403 then allows the District Attorney's office to file a Motion to Revoke Conditions of Release. The Court may issue a warrant pending the hearing on a Motion to Revoke where appropriate.

Under best practices, as outlined by National Association of Pretrial Services, supervision information is generally confidential, not subject to disclosure. However, individuals are permitted to access that information in limited circumstances which can include: for Court proceedings on conditions of release or detention, agencies to which the individual may have been referred for services, and law enforcement where there is a reasonable belief that the information is necessary. This best practice is followed in both this Court and in the Federal System.

SJDC is an active member of the Bernalillo County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and is always open to discussing on-going concerns and improvements to the system with the justice stakeholders.