



BELKNAP COUNTY PRETRIAL SERVICES BAIL SUPERVISION PROGRAM

What is Pretrial Services?

Pretrial Services helps balance the rights of the accused, public safety, and system integrity concerns at a Bail Hearing. This requires Pretrial Services to gather the appropriate information regarding the Defendant's community ties, prior criminal history, record of court appearances, and compliance with court-imposed release. Bail decisions are enhanced further when a release option exists for defendants who cannot be released safely on their own recognizance, but who may not warrant pretrial detention.

The Belknap County Pretrial Services Program is designed to provide the courts within Belknap County accurate and current defendant background information so that the judicial officers may make more informed decisions regarding possible Pretrial Release. The Belknap County Pretrial Services Program is designed to facilitate the supervised release of those who otherwise may be held in the County Jail pending trial. By conducting initial interviews, Pretrial Services helps identify a defendant who may qualify for alternative criminal justice programs, therefore streamlining the process for admission and decreasing time the defendant spends in the criminal justice system. However, the Pretrial Services Program **will not** make recommendations to the court regarding the appropriateness of a defendant for release on Pretrial Services. Supervision is through Court Orders, Conditions of Release, and/or related programs deemed necessary by the Court.

To help improve Bail decisions and provide a means of release for appropriate Defendants, Belknap County Pretrial Services assists other agencies and the criminal justice system by:

- Providing for the public safety.
- Providing pretrial release services to all courts within Belknap County.
- Monitoring all defendants for impending court appearances.
- Providing an early assessment of defendants who may qualify for criminal justice programs.
- Providing levels of Pretrial Monitoring/Supervised Pretrial Release consistent with the perceived risk of flight, potential risk to the defendant, and/or the risk to the Community. **Levels of Supervision differs due to the restrictions placed on the defendant, and the compliance of restrictions while monitored. All defendants on pretrial supervision will comply with all court orders, including any evaluations, any services ordered by the Courts and report to Pretrial Services as directed.** Depending on assessed level of risk for flight or non-compliance with required programming, Defendant's Level of Supervision could include but is not limited to:
 - Reporting as directed by Pretrial Services. Reporting could be either face-to-face, by phone, email, text, and/or any combination of the above or messaging as instructed.
 - Home confinement and/or Electronic Monitoring. When specified with sobriety equipment.
 - Reporting of any Non-Compliance or Violation of the conditions of Defendant's Bail Order to the respective Prosecutor and/or Defense Attorney.

Non-Compliance:

All violations of any condition of bail are reported in writing on a non-compliance report to the court, the prosecutor, and the defense attorney. It is the discretion of the prosecutor to act on non-compliance.

Compliance:

If a client fully complies with all conditions of his/her bail release, they or their attorney may request Pretrial Services provide a Letter of Compliance to the Prosecutor and Defense.