

# Pretrial Services Annual Report



**FY 2022**

**Court Administration**

**Seventh Judicial Circuit**

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## Volusia County Pretrial Services

Volusia County Pretrial Services provided accurate, unbiased information to judges concerning arrestees, monitored those placed under pretrial supervision, and screened specimens submitted to urinalysis laboratories.

Pretrial Services was re-accredited on October 14, 2020, by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC). The accreditation process involves an independent audit by FCAC assessors of the program's compliance with approximately 70 standards over a three-year period. Receiving and maintaining accreditation signifies the program is achieving the highest level of professionalism and setting the standard for the profession. The program has maintained accreditation for more than eleven years and is scheduled for its next reaccreditation in 2023.



Each of the units within Volusia County Pretrial Services performs specialized functions, all vital to a successful and comprehensive program. As such, each unit has specific goals. Performance highlights of the Drug Screening Laboratories, Assessment, and Supervision units are as follows.

## Drug Screening Laboratories



The primary goal of the laboratories is to provide screening services in a professional manner while applying best practices for collection and screening.

In accordance with best practices, the laboratories retain the services of an independent testing laboratory. This resource enables the laboratories to send urine specimens for additional testing to confirm screening results and test for additional substances of abuse.

The Volusia County laboratories will continue to place emphasis on meeting industry standards and provide educational training to community partners. The laboratories will continue to comply with State of Florida Department of Health regulations. In FY2022, the drug screening laboratories achieved a satisfactory inspection rating from the State of Florida Department of Health, the highest rating available, and increased the number of Certified Pretrial Services Professional lab staff.

### Drug Screening Laboratory Goals for 2023

- Achieve a satisfactory inspection rating from the State of Florida Department of Health.
- Increase or maintain the number of lab staff who are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.
- Cross-train lab staff in other pretrial departments.

### By the Numbers

FY2021	FY2022	Testing
128,443	191,589	Individual screens run
2,203	4,265	Individual screens run with positive results
13,515	20,553	Specimens screened
1,913	3,747	Specimens with positive results



## Assessment

On a daily basis, including weekends and holidays, Pretrial Assessment diligently reviews defendant criminal histories, interviews defendants and contacts alleged victims of domestic violence. This research is compiled to create a comprehensive report utilized by the First Appearance judge to make release decisions. During the 2022 fiscal year, 15,465 individuals attended First Appearance.

On January 4, 2016, Volusia County Pretrial Services implemented the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), a nationally validated pretrial risk instrument created by Arnold Ventures. The PSA provides the judiciary with an unbiased and scientifically validated method of determining a defendant's likelihood to commit new law violations and to fail to appear for scheduled court events prior to case disposition. Additionally, the PSA is examined on a yearly basis to ensure ongoing PSA instrument validation.

Additionally, the assessment unit coordinates with the jail regarding the release of individuals who are ordered to be monitored by Global Positioning Systems (GPS). This assures the GPS equipment is properly installed in a timely manner before a defendant is released from custody.



### Assessment Goals for 2023

- Explore remote work options, ensuring that operations can continue during unexpected events.
- Increase or maintain the number of assessment staff who are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.

### By the Numbers

FY2021	FY2022	Testing
2,883	2,704	Cases ordered to Pretrial Supervision at First Appearance
18%	17.5%	Percent of cases released to Pretrial Supervision at First Appearance
11,968	12,502	Assessments completed

## Supervision

Pretrial Supervision monitors defendants released into the community while awaiting disposition of their criminal cases. Supervision consists of monitoring compliance with court ordered conditions of release, ensuring appearances at scheduled court proceedings, and promoting a lawful lifestyle. The supervision unit monitored 4,014 cases in fiscal year 2022, resulting in a court appearance rate of 95.6%.



Periodically, judges request that the supervision unit attempt to locate a defendant who has failed to appear for a scheduled court date. During fiscal year 2022, 50 investigations were conducted, and 28 defendants were successfully located and rescheduled for court. This avoids the costs associated with the service of a warrant.

All Pretrial Services units place an emphasis on continuing education. During this fiscal year, each pretrial employee completed a minimum of 40 hours of training, resulting in over 1,200 hours of training department wide. In FY2022, the Pretrial Services maintained adherence to FCAC accreditation standards and increased the number of staff who achieved Certified Pretrial Services Professional status.

### Supervision Goals for FY2023

- Maintain compliance with agency accreditation standards through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.
- Increase or maintain the number of supervision staff who are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.
- Increase the number of FTA investigations.

### By the Numbers

FY2021		FY2022		Supervision
2,883		2,704		New cases received at First Appearance
421		670		New cases received after First Appearance
3,603		3,374		Cases closed
2,774	77%	2,680	79%	Cases closed successfully
3,408	95%	3,224	96%	Cases closed without Failing to Appear
3,346	93%	3,062	91%	Cases closed without Failing to Comply
3,252	90%	3,142	93%	Cases closed without a New Arrest

## Program Achievements and Projects

- Four employees attended the 2022 National Association of Pretrial Services Conference.
- New employees were cross trained in various pretrial services disciplines.
- Assessment staff took part in PREA/jail safety training.
- One employee attended the 2022 National Association Drug Court Professionals Conference.
- Staff participated in national and local pretrial related boards and committees.
- A total of 12 employees have achieved or maintained certification.
- A task tracking system was developed for assessment staff, ensuring equal distribution of work and adequate training on all assessment functions.
- Several PSA enhancements were implemented, increasing functionality.
- FTA investigations did not increase as planned (57 in 2021 and 50 in 2022) a decline of approximately 12%.

The Volusia County Pretrial Services statistical summary below captures fiscal year data from October 1 through September 30.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY & DATA FOR PRETRIAL SERVICES

6 YEAR COMPARISON	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS AT FIRST APPEARANCE	19,003	19,511	18,351	15,586	15,669	15,465
NUMBER OF RELEASES TO PRETRIAL	4,485	4,431	4,707	3,998	3,336	3,097
PRETRIAL SERVICES CASES CLOSED	4,598	4,555	4,733	3,838	3,603	3,374
Unsuccessful	1,289	1,232	1,377	997	829	694
Successful	3,309	3,323	3,356	2,841	2,774	2,680
Appeared in court	4,469	4,432	4,525	3,623	3,408	3,224
Appearance Rate	97%	97%	96%	94%	95%	96%
No New Arrests	4,328	4,240	4,366	3,409	3,252	3,142
No New Arrests Rate	94%	93%	92%	89%	90%	93%
Complied with Program	3,708	3,767	3,356	3,485	3,346	3,062
Compliance Rate	81%	83%	83%	91%	93%	91%