

Pretrial Services Annual Report



FY 2025

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 June 28, 2023, 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 fifteen years and was awarded its first Excelsior status in 2023 and is expected to achieve the designation again in 2026. Excelsior recognition is awarded to Florida criminal justice agencies which have demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to the Florida accreditation process. Excelsior agencies must have been awarded five successful accreditation cycles by the Commission.



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 to the court, court programs, and community-based programs, 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 providing educational training to community partners. The laboratories will continue to comply with State of Florida Department of Health regulations. In FY2025, 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 2026

- 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.
- Crosstrain lab staff in other pretrial departments.

By the Numbers

FY2024	FY2025	Testing
152,413	176,442	Individual screens run
3,878	5,030	Individual screens run with positive results
15,990	18,358	Specimens screened
3,480	4,590	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 2025 fiscal year, 14,613 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 fail to appear for scheduled court events prior to case disposition. The PSA is validated annually.

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 ensures the GPS equipment is properly installed in a timely manner before a defendant is released from custody.



Assessment Goals for 2026

- Continue to explore ways to use technology to enhance operational effectiveness.
- Maintain compliance with agency accreditation standards through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.
- 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

FY2024	FY2025	Assessment
2,624	2,670	Cases ordered to Pretrial Supervision at First Appearance
17%	18%	Percent of cases released to Pretrial Supervision at First Appearance
12,470	12,080	Public Safety 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 3,691 cases in fiscal year 2025, resulting in a court appearance rate of 95%.



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 2025, 597 investigations were conducted, resulting in 311 defendants being 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 1,400 hours of training department wide. In fiscal year 2025, Pretrial Services maintained adherence to FCAC accreditation standards and increased the number of staff who achieved Certified Pretrial Services Professional status.

Supervision Goals for FY2026

- 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

FY2024	FY2025	Supervision
2,624	2,670	New cases received at First Appearance
291	311	New cases received after First Appearance
2,887	3,002	Cases closed
2,315 (80%)	2,393 (80%)	Cases closed successfully
2,774 (96%)	2,864 (95%)	Cases closed without Failing to Appear
2,654 (92%)	2,766 (92%)	Cases closed without Failing to Comply
2,661 (92%)	2,767 (91%)	Cases closed without a New Arrest

Program Achievements and Projects

- Four employees attended the 2025 National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Conference.
- Six employees attended an Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida training.
- Implemented remote first appearance practices for female defendants.
- Pretrial staff assisted with male UA observations and collections in Putnam and St. Johns counties.
- A QR code linked to defendant community resources was created.
- New employees were cross trained in various pretrial services disciplines.
- Staff participated (elected and appointed) in national and local pretrial related boards and committees.
- Staff participated in Operation Safe Surrender.
- Staff helped identify potential Veterans Court, DUI Court, and Drug Court candidates.
- The program received a proclamation from Volusia County acknowledging the agency's success and commitment to excellence.
- A total of 15 employees have achieved or maintained certification, an increase from last year.
- All pretrial employees achieved or maintained FDLE Limited Access Certification.
- FTA investigations increased significantly (70 in FY2024 to 597 in FY2025), an increase of 753%.

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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS AT FIRST APPEARANCE	15,586	15,669	15,465	14,540	15,009	14,613
NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS ORDERED TO PRETRIAL SERVICES	3,998	3,336	3,097	2,989	2,915	2,981
PRETRIAL SERVICES CASES CLOSED	3,838	3,603	3,374	2,942	2,887	3,002
Unsuccessful	997	829	694	604	572	609
Successful	2,841	2,774	2,680	2,338	2,315	2,393
Appeared in court	3,623	3,408	3,224	2,817	2,774	2,864
Appearance Rate	94%	95%	96%	96%	96%	95%
No New Arrests	3,409	3,252	3,142	2,135	2,661	2,767
No New Arrests Rate	89%	90%	93%	93%	92%	91%
Complied with Program	3,485	3,346	3,062	2,062	2,654	2,766
Compliance Rate	91%	93%	91%	91%	92%	92%