

### **Standard 10-1.10. The role of the pretrial services agency**

Every jurisdiction should establish a pretrial services agency or program to collect and present the necessary information, present risk assessments, and, consistent with court policy, make release recommendations required by the judicial officer in making release decisions, including the defendant's eligibility for diversion, treatment or other alternative adjudication programs, such as drug or other treatment courts. Pretrial services should also monitor, supervise, and assist defendants released prior to trial, and to review the status and release eligibility of detained defendants for the court on an ongoing basis.

The pretrial services agency should:

(a) conduct pre-first appearance inquiries;

(b) present accurate information to the judicial officer relating to the risk defendants may pose of failing to appear in court or of threatening the safety of the community or any other person and, consistent with court policy, develop release recommendations responding to risk;

(c) develop and provide appropriate and effective supervision for all persons released

pending adjudication who are assigned supervision as a condition of release;

(d) develop clear policy for operating or contracting for the operation of appropriate facilities for the custody, care or supervision of persons released and manage a range of release options, including but not limited to, residential half-way houses, addict and alcoholic treatment centers, and counseling services, sufficient to respond to the risks and problems associated with released defendants in coordination with existing court, corrections and community resources;

(e) monitor the compliance of released defendants with the requirements of assigned release conditions and develop relationships with alternative programs such as drug and domestic violence courts or mental health support systems;

(f) promptly inform the court of all apparent violations of pretrial release conditions or arrests of persons released pending trial, including those directly supervised by pretrial services as well as those released under other forms of conditional release, and recommend appropriate modifications of release conditions according to approved court policy. The pretrial services agency should avoid supervising defendants who are government informants, when activities of these defendants may place them in conflict with conditions of release or compromise the safety and integrity of the pretrial services professional;

(g) supervise and coordinate the services of other agencies, individuals or organizations that serve as custodians for released defendants, and advise the court as to their appropriateness, availability, reliability and capacity according to approved court policy relating to pretrial release conditions.

(h) review the status of detained defendants on an ongoing basis for any changes in eligibility for release options and facilitate their release as soon as feasible and appropriate;

(i) develop and operate an accurate information management system to support prompt identification, information collection and presentation, risk assessment, release conditions selection, compliance monitoring and detention review functions essential to an effective pretrial services agency;

(j) assist persons released prior to trial in securing any necessary employment, medical, drug, mental or other health treatment, legal or other needed social services that would increase the chances of successful compliance with conditions of pretrial release;

(k) remind persons released before trial of their court dates and assist them in attending court; and

(l) have the means to assist persons who cannot communicate in written or spoken English.