



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

Probation Department

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sacramento County Probation Department Reaches Pretrial Milestone

On September 21, 2020, Probation reached a milestone of 500 active Pretrial cases. Partnerships between the Court, Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office and Department of Technology have been instrumental in reaching this milestone.

In July 2019, the County of Sacramento committed \$1.2 million to begin implementing a Pretrial program that would assist the County in reducing the jail population by releasing individuals to the community while awaiting future court appearances. In August 2019, the Sacramento Superior Court received \$9.5 million in grant funding from the Judicial Council of California to create a Pretrial Pilot Program.

The Probation Department, as the selected supervising agency, operates the Pretrial program that includes conducting assessments on individuals booked into custody and monitoring individuals released on Pretrial. Probation officers utilize the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) tool, which relies on accurate predictors of returning to court and ensuring public safety. Assessment services occur seven days a week, including evenings and holidays. The Court receives the PSA report for consideration in the Court's decision to release to the Pre-trial program.

The Pre-trial program is an additional option to release practices currently in place. Releases include citations in lieu of bookings, Sheriff's "quick" release, zero bail release, release on cash bail / bond release, straight own recognizance (OR) release, and OR release with conditions. Releases on OR with conditions are monitored under the Pre-trial program.

The Probation Department welcomed the first Pretrial client on October 21, 2019. On September 15, 2020, the Probation celebrated its 1,000th Pretrial release.

Supporting Positive Change

“Sacramento County Probation is known for our collaborative justice approach. Working with our local justice partners has enabled us to develop and implement a robust pretrial program, utilizing a validated assessment tool and providing necessary services and monitoring all at no cost to our clients.” – Julie Wherry, Assistant Chief Probation Officer

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