

NEWS RELEASE  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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**SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES  
TRANSITION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES TO THE  
ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE  
ACCOUNTABILITY, OVERSIGHT, AND  
TRANSPARENCY**

The Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco will align with all other California counties by designating civil service - the Adult Probation Department (APD) - to provide pretrial services to justice-involved individuals in San Francisco, Presiding Judge Rochelle C. East announced today. Managing pretrial services through a formalized county department aligns San Francisco with state-level funding structures and ensures long-term financial stability. This shift will provide accountability and increased public safety to the residents of and visitors to San Francisco, transparency to the court, and improved oversight and support to out-of-custody individuals with pending criminal matters.

APD has the institutional scale and state backing to ensure these vital safety programs are permanently funded, consistently staffed, and strictly audited for performance. Under APD leadership, there is a unified continuum of care. The same structural network that assesses an individual at their arraignment can support them through the life of their case.

“The Court is confident that APD’s approach will enhance both clarity and accountability in pretrial decision-making,” Presiding Judge East said. “For many years, the Court has relied on SF Pretrial – and we are grateful for their dedication and partnership. However, it is time to step away from that legacy partnership and align with all other California counties that partner with a transparent public sector department for pretrial services. We look forward to APD’s expertise and policies that maximize community safety while promoting successful non-detention alternatives.”

APD will oversee two main pretrial responsibilities:

1. Using the Public Safety Assessment tool to make a release recommendation to judges after a person is arrested but before arraignment.
2. APD will implement evidence-based supervision practices for individuals released pre-arraignment and pretrial and will provide access to resources and critical support for individuals, ensuring the least restrictive means necessary as required by law to promote public safety and assure court appearances.

## **Accountability, Transparency, and Oversight**

Pursuant to AB 102, Section 8, "Courts shall contract with any county department, including county probation departments, to provide pretrial services." Signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 27, 2025, AB 102 requires that "The contractor adheres to the same transparency, accountability, and outcome measurement standards that apply to county probation departments."

While examining SF Pretrial's performance and contractual terms, the Court submitted a formal request to obtain financial and programmatic documentation from the nonprofit. Notably, in 2025, SF Pretrial was newly designated Tier 2 by the San Francisco Office of the Controller City Performance Division's Citywide Nonprofit Monitoring and Capacity Building Program - FY25 Annual Report. A Tier 2 designation "provides notice of increased risk to public funds and client services due to serious fiscal or programmatic concerns and supports enhanced coordination to address these concerns. A Tier 2 designation results in mandatory action planning and technical assistance to support the nonprofit in establishing sound fiscal, programmatic and management practices in compliance with City standards." Based on this risk to public funds, the Court was obligated to request SF Pretrial's financial documentation.

However, SF Pretrial refused to provide the records requested by the Court, leading to the Court's decision to discontinue its partnership with SF Pretrial. The fiscal implications, along with reporting inaccuracies and limited information to judges, demonstrated the urgency of the Court's decision to move forward.

A county's pretrial service provider is statutorily required to provide oversight reports to the Court describing how individuals on pretrial supervision are managing and adhering to oversight while in the community. For several years, the Court has received reports that are inaccurate, overdue, or unclear. The Court has worked closely with SF Pretrial to improve reporting, though requests for progress reports to be signed by the SF Pretrial staff who work with the participants and know them have been rejected. Instead, all reports are signed by SF Pretrial's CEO, resulting in judges being unable to ask clarifying questions of staff. Some reporting has been egregiously inaccurate, stating that a person has not been reporting to SF Pretrial and is not meeting their release requirements when, in fact, the individual has been meeting all requirements. Remanding and incarcerating those in good standing due to oversight problems is unacceptable, and not allowing judges to converse directly with staff who know the defendants illustrates a clear lack of accountability. In contrast, APD staff each sign their reports and are available for clarification and further questions from judges.

SF Pretrial currently provides six in-person groups and one virtual group weekly. Adult Probation currently provides 17 in-person groups and 7 virtual groups weekly, including each of SF Pretrial's groups. Many individuals on SF Pretrial oversight receive their services through APD.

"SF Pretrial's refusal to provide financial records and their ongoing challenges with clear reporting accountability prevents the Court from continuing the partnership in good faith," Presiding Judge East said. Consolidating pretrial and post-filing services under one department eliminates fragmented communication, reduces administrative waste, and ensures judges have clear, comprehensive data when making critical release decisions.

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