

# Pretrial Services Eligibility Policy

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MECKLENBURG COUNTY BUDGET POLICY WORKSHOP  
MARCH 10, 2015

# Request

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Criminal Justice Services (CJS) is requesting that the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners:

- Rescind the 2011 Pretrial Services Eligibility Policy, and
- Approve the 2015 Pretrial Services Eligibility Policy, as recommended by the District Court Subcommittee

# Eligibility Policy

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- The Pretrial Services Eligibility Policy is set by the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners
- The Policy establishes local criteria for defendants to be eligible for supervision in the pretrial services program
- The Policy was originally established when the program directly released defendants from jail

# Reasons for Policy Revision

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1. Adopt legal and evidence-based practices
2. Improve the overall pretrial system in Mecklenburg County
3. Enhance Public Safety

# Enhancing Public Safety

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- Detain high risk defendants, regardless of charge
- Provide supervision to low-moderate risk defendants
  - Monitoring, court reminders, drug testing
  - 93% public safety rate for Pretrial Services cases<sup>1</sup>
  - 67% public safety rate for non-Pretrial Services cases<sup>2</sup>
- Allow judges to impose supervision on a case-by-case basis when necessary for serious offenses

1- FY15 Service Level Measure Mid-Year Review for Pretrial Services

2- 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bail Policy Review, July 2012

# Proposed Changes to Pretrial Services Eligibility Policy

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- Removes restrictions not supported by research
- Eligibility for supervision will be based primarily on risk level
- High-risk defendants, regardless of charge, are ineligible for supervision services
- Charges related to murder, sex, robbery, or escape are automatically ineligible

# Questions?

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