

San Francisco Sheriff's Department Pretrial Diversion Project

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department contracts with SF Pretrial Diversion Project to operate three programs that provide alternatives to pretrial incarceration. The intended outcome of all three programs is minimizing risk to public safety, while affording defendants the opportunity to reconnect with family and community while meeting the requirements of the court.

OWN RECOGNIZANCE PROJECT

The purpose of the own recognizance (OR) project is to interview eligible in-custody defendants and present their cases to a judicial officer for possible pre-arraignment release on their own recognizance. A judicial officer reviews the OR packet which consists of the interview, criminal history which is also summarized and the arrest report, and determines if the defendant should be released. If the judge grants release, the OR staff informs the defendant of the conditions of their release. If the judge denies OR or if the defendant is ineligible for pre-arraignment OR release, the OR staff provide the defendant information to the arraignment courts for possible release on court OR or referral to Supervised Pretrial Release or Court Accountable Homeless Services.

SUPERVISED PRETRIAL RELEASE

Supervised Pretrial Release (SPR) is an alternative for those who do not qualify for OR and cannot post bail. SPR is a conditional release program in which eligible defendants are released on their promise to abide by court orders with their program participation closely supervised by staff.

COURT ACCOUNTABLE HOMELESS SERVICES

Court Accountable Homeless Services (CAHS) provides the most intensive supervision on the continuum of pretrial alternatives to incarceration. CAHS seeks to address chronic homelessness and concurring court appearances through intensive case management. Many of the homeless offenders exhibit a host of issues that impede their ability to successfully navigate the judicial system and must overcome a number of unique challenges beyond homelessness. To that end, CAHS provides the court with an effective and comprehensive pretrial release program for defendants with poor appearance.