Sidebar

A Pretrial Justice Information Series

Focus On...   the DEL-PAT

DEL-PAT: Delaware's Pretrial Assessment Tool

Created with Delaware's own data to give judges information about defendants' likelihood to succeed pretrial by

> Making all scheduled court appearances and
>
> Not engaging in new criminal activity during pretrial release.

Failure to Appear (FTA) Scale

Predictive Factor	Weight
Any prior probation supervision in past 10 years	0 = no 1 = yes
Total number of prior FTAs in past year	0 = none 1 = 1 2 = 2 or more
Total number of prior FTAs in past 10 years	0 = none 1 = 1 2 = 2 or more
Current arrest includes one charge of larceny or stolen vehicle	0 = no 1 = yes

New Criminal Activity (NCA) Scale

Predictive Factor	Weight
Any pending case	0 = no 1 = yes
Any prior convictions	0 = none 1 = 1 2 = 2 or more
Any prior misdemeanor arrests in past 2 years	0 = none 2 = 1 or more
Any prior probation supervisions	0 = no 1 = yes
Age at first arrest	0 = 20 or older 1 = 119 and younger
Any prior failures to appear	0 = none 1 = 1 or more

For additional information about pretrial initiatives in Delaware please contact Kate Parker at kparkerwest@dcjustice.org

Measuring What Matters

- Defendants with the highest possible scores on one or both scales still are likely to succeed in more than 50% of the cases.

- Ten percent of defendants with the lowest possible scores on both scales are still likely to fail.

What DEL-PAT can't do?

Pretrial tools are not designed to:

- Make individual predictions about a particular defendant's behavior,

- Substitute for judicial discretion, or

- Predict likelihood of future violence.