



Travis County Pretrial Services

FY12 Central Booking Unit Fact Sheet

What is the Role of the Central Booking Unit?

- Pretrial Officers interview defendants in custody at the Travis County Jail and make recommendations to the Court regarding release on Personal Bond, and which conditions, if any, should be required of the defendant if he/she is released. The Court decides whether to grant release on Personal Bond and orders the conditions of release.
- Pretrial Officers collect information from defendants, both in custody and out-of-custody, so that the Court can make an informed decision about a defendant's indigence status and whether he/she qualifies for court-appointed counsel.
- Pretrial Officers conduct bond interviews of defendants who report to Court pursuant to a Field Release Citation issued by law enforcement as allowed by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure¹
- The Central Booking Unit is staffed 365 days/year, 20 hours per day (6:00 AM – 2:00 AM), and is open to the public from 7:30 AM – 8:30 PM M-F and 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM Weekends and Holidays.

What Factors Influence the Recommendation for Personal Bond?

- The key focus of Pretrial Officers is whether or not the defendant, if released, poses a risk to community safety or a risk of failure to appear. As a result, a number of factors influence the Pretrial Officer's recommendation to the Court.

Positive:

Employment status
 Family Support
 Stability in Community
 Nature of the Charges Being Faced

Negative:

Lacks Stability
 Lacks Family Support
 Seriousness of offense
 Prior Criminal History
 History of Violence
 Evidence of mental instability

What are the Common Conditions of Personal Bond?

Drug Counseling
 Alcohol Counseling
 Family Violence Counseling

No Contact with Complaining Witness
 Participation in one or more of Pretrial Services' Caseload Programs

Pretrial Legal and Evidence Based Practices

- Pretrial Legal and Evidence Based Practices (LEBP) has as its goal the use of strategies and practices that are proven to reduce the risk of pretrial failure (re-arrest and failure to appear in court), while assuring the safety of the community and respecting the constitutional rights of the accused.
- The Central Booking Unit strives to align with Pretrial LEBP by implementing an objective risk assessment to guide the bond recommendation process, updating our statistical and reporting methods, using Motivational Interviewing techniques in the interview process, and ensuring that we consider defendants for release on Personal Bond with the least possible restrictions while assuring the safety of the community and respecting the constitutional rights of the accused.

Statistics

FY 2012 Central Booking Personal Bond Statistics	
Number of Defendants Screened by Pretrial Services	40,144
Number of Defendants Eligible for Personal Bond Interview	30,174
Number of Defendants Granted Personal Bond	18,813
Number of Defendants Granted Personal Bond with Cash Deposit	222
Percentage of Defendants Granted Personal Bond (of Defendants Eligible)	62.3%

¹ Tx. Code of Criminal Procedure §14.06 (c)