



PRETRIAL RELEASE PROGRAM

"CITIZENS RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT"

Section 907.043 Florida Statutes

Amended 2022 Annual Report

***Based on statistical data tracked for period:
1/1/2022 - 12/31/2022***

Office Location:

St Lucie County Courthouse

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The St Lucie County Pretrial Release Program is funded through the St Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, under the office of the County Attorney, with direct supervision of the St Lucie County Criminal Justice Director. In addition, Okeechobee, Martin, and Indian River Counties have contracted with St. Lucie County to provide pretrial and GPS monitoring services for their respective counties.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY PRETRIAL PROGRAM
2022 ANNUAL REPORT (PER F.S. 907.043)
(1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022)

- Section I.** *Required questions and answers per F.S. 907.043 “Citizens Right-to-Know Act”*
- Section II.** *Charts and graphs for statistical data required to provide answers to the questions in Section I. (Per F.S. 907.043) (Including separate data for the Programs in St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin, and Indian River Counties)*
- Section III.** *Summary and explanation of statistical data, services provided, required conditions, and plans for expansion and accomplishments of The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program*
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The St. Lucie County Pretrial Release Program ("Program") has been staffed by county employees since June 2007. The Program was initially started in order to provide supervision of pretrial defendants and to alleviate jail over-crowding. The Program has since been expanded to provide supervision of other cases when ordered by the Judiciary. As a result, defendants have been sanctioned to the program from Drug Court, Mental Health Court, while pending appeal, and/or while their cases are pending a hearing for Violation of Probation (County Court). In addition, due to the success of the Program, several of the County Court Judges requested that the Program take sentenced cases (misdemeanors only), as a condition of probation. The enhanced supervision conditions can include GPS monitoring, field visits (which are not provided by county probation services), along with house arrest and curfew requirements as an alternative to receiving a sentence to the county jail.

In the spring of 2015, Okeechobee County requested the St. Lucie Pretrial Program assist them with their jail overcrowding issues. As a result of the request, Okeechobee County developed a Public Safety Coordinating Council. A recommendation was made that they create a Pretrial Release Program with St. Lucie County's assistance. An interlocal agreement was drafted and presented to the Board of County Commissioners in both counties, which was approved. In August 2015, the St. Lucie County Pretrial Program began supervising the first cases in Okeechobee County.

In the summer of 2018 following in Okeechobee County's footsteps, the Martin County Sheriff's Office contacted St. Lucie County Pretrial to inquire about the possibility of the St. Lucie County Pretrial Program providing pretrial supervision and GPS monitoring services in Martin County to ease their jail overcrowding issues. An interlocal agreement was drafted and passed by both County's Board of County Commissioners. On October 1, 2018, the Martin County Office of the St. Lucie County Pretrial Program began supervising the first cases in Martin County.

In October of 2021, the Indian River County Sheriff's Office to inquire about the possibility of the St. Lucie County Pretrial Program providing pretrial supervision and GPS monitoring services in Indian River County. An interlocal agreement was drafted and presented to the Board of County Commissioners in both counties, which was approved. On March 1, 2022, the Indian River County Office of the St. Lucie County Pretrial Program began supervising the first cases in Indian River County. The Pretrial Program was now servicing the entire 19th circuit.

In 2022, the program provided significant savings in St. Lucie County, Okeechobee County, Martin County, and Indian River County. A basic inmate (not including any medical costs) can cost St. Lucie County \$80.81 per day. As a direct result of the program, approximately 56,037 "bed days" were saved from jail incarceration during 2022. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) is approximately \$4,528,350.00. It is estimated that over 50% of the cases supervised have medical conditions that require treatment that could easily add several million dollars in additional savings. Again, this is based on the fact that the St. Lucie County Jail is not responsible for the medical cost once a defendant is released.

In Okeechobee County, where a basic inmate (not including any medical costs) can cost the County \$78.57 per day. As a result of the program, approximately 3,931 "bed days" were saved from jail incarceration during 2022. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) is approximately \$308,859.00. It is estimated that over 50% of the cases supervised in Okeechobee County also have medical conditions that require treatment that could easily add several hundred thousand dollars in additional savings. Again, this is based on the fact that the Okeechobee County Jail is not responsible for the medical cost once a defendant is released.

In Martin County, a basic inmate (not including any medical costs) can cost the County \$106.00 per day. As a result of the program, approximately 1,813 "bed days" were saved from jail incarceration during the period from January 1, 2022, to February 17, 2022. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) would be approximately \$192,178.00. It is estimated that over 50% of the cases supervised have medical conditions that require treatment that could easily add several hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional savings. Again, this is based on the fact that the Martin County Jail is not responsible for the medical cost once a defendant is released. During 2022 annual reporting cycle, Martin County decided to terminate their interlocal agreement with St. Lucie County to implement their own Pretrial Program. As of February 18, 2022, the Martin County Sheriff's Office operates its own Pretrial Program.

Finally, in Indian River County, a basic inmate (not including any medical costs) can cost the County \$97.44 per day. As a result of the program, approximately 9,701 "bed days" were saved from jail incarceration during 2022. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) would be approximately \$945,265.00. During the 2022 annual reporting cycle, Indian River County decided to terminate their interlocal agreement with St. Lucie County to implement their own Pretrial Program. As of January 1, 2023, the Indian River County Sheriff Office operates its own Pretrial Program.

Requirements for Pretrial Release Program per Florida Law

The following data provides the specific information required by Section 907.043 (4) (a), Florida Statutes (2020) for the annual report. There will be additional information (not required by Section 907.043) in other sections.

(4) (a) *No later than March 31 of every year, each pretrial release program must submit an annual report for the previous calendar year to the governing body and to the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the pretrial release program is located. The annual report must be readily accessible to the public.*

(b) *The annual report must contain:*

1. The name, location, and funding sources of the pretrial release program, including the amount of public funds, if any, received by the pretrial release program.

The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program is located in the St. Lucie County Courthouse, 218 South Second St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950, and is fully funded by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners.

The Program is funded through the Fine and Forfeiture Fund. The total 2022 Pretrial Program budget was \$1,792,801.45.

2. The operating and capital budget of each pretrial release program receiving public funds.

St Lucie County Pretrial Program Budget

Expenses	Budget	Actual
Operating Expenses	\$1,792,801.45	\$1,641,855.67
Capital Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$1,792,801.45	\$1,641,855.67

3a. The percentage of the pretrial release program's total budget representing receipt of public funds.

The Pretrial Program in St. Lucie County is 100% St. Lucie County funded with contributions from Martin, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties to fund the pretrial program in their respective County.

3b. The percentage of the total budget which is allocated to assisting defendants obtain release through a non- publicly funded program.

At this time, the Pretrial Program in St. Lucie County (including the GPS monitoring cost) is fully funded by St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners with contributions from Martin, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties to fund the program in their respective County.

3c. The amount of fees paid by defendants to the pretrial release program.

In some instances, defendants have been ordered by the Court to pay toward their Supervision/GPS monitoring cost. For the year 2022 amount collected was \$0.00.

4. The number of persons employed by the pretrial release program

St. Lucie County Pretrial Program professional staff consists of 17 positions: Program Manager, two (2) supervisors, two (2) senior pretrial officers and eight (9) pretrial officers, two (2) case managers and one (1) Staff Assistant.

5. The number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release.

In St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin, and Indian River Counties assessments and interviews are conducted in court by the presiding judge to determine pretrial suitability. Therefore, there were not any defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release.

6. The number of defendants recommended for pretrial release.

The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program does not make recommendations but can review cases to determine if they meet criteria or court-ordered conditions (per occasional request of judges). Therefore, there were not any defendants recommended for pretrial release.

7. The number of defendants for whom the pretrial release program recommended against non-secured release

The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program does not recommend whether the release should be secured or non-secured. The Judiciary makes that decision. Therefore, there were not any defendants for whom the program recommended against non-secured release.

8. The number of defendants granted non-secured release after the pretrial release program recommended non-secured release.

The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program does not recommend whether the release should be secured or non-secured. The Judiciary makes that decision. Therefore, there were not any defendants granted non-secured release after program recommended non-secured release.

9. The number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release that were declared indigent by the court.

In St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin, and Indian River Counties assessments and interviews are conducted in court by the presiding judge to determine pretrial suitability. Therefore, there were not any defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release that were declared indigent by the court.

Indigent Defendants:

St. Lucie	498
Okeechobee	35
Martin	15
Indian River	128

10. The name and case number of each person granted non-secured release (ROR) who:

a. Failed to attend a scheduled court appearance.

St. Lucie	2
Okeechobee	0
Martin	0
Indian River	1

b. Was issued a warrant for failing to appear.

St. Lucie	2
Okeechobee	0
Martin	0
Indian River	1

c. Was arrested for any offense while on release through the pretrial release program.

St. Lucie	37
Okeechobee	4
Martin County	2
Indian River	11

11: Number of defendants charged with dangerous crimes as defined in [907.041](#)

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
526	47	17	181

12. Number of defendants charged with non-violent felonies. (Includes all felonies except commission, attempt to commit or collaborate to commit the crimes listed below).

a. An offense enumerated in s. [775.084\(1\)\(c\)](#)

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
0	0	0	0

b. An offense that requires a person to register as a sexual predator in accordance with s. [775.21](#) or as a sexual offender in accordance with s. [943.0435](#):

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
2	0	2	9

c. Failure to register as a sexual predator in violation of s. [775.21](#) or as a sexual offender in violation of s. [943.0435](#):

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
2	0	2	9

d. Facilitating or furthering terrorism in violation of s. [775.31](#):

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
0	0	0	0

e. A forcible felony as described in s. [776.08](#):

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
0	0	0	0

f. False imprisonment in violation of s. [787.02](#):

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
7	1	0	0

g. Burglary of a dwelling or residence in violation of s. 810.02(3):

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
22	3	0	17

h. Abuse, aggravated abuse, and neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult in violation of s. 825.102:

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
0	0	0	0

i. Abuse, aggravated abuse, and neglect of a child in violation of s. 827.03:

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
22	3	1	8

j. Poisoning of food or water in violation of s. 859.01:

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
0	0	0	0

k. Abuse of a dead human body in violation of s. 872.06:

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
0	0	0	0

l. A capital offense in violation of chapter 893:

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
292	15	3	72

m. An offense that results in serious bodily injury or death to another human; or

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
63	18	2	23

- n. A felony offense in which the defendant used a weapon or firearm in the commission of the offense.

St. Lucie	Okeechobee	Martin	Indian River
74	7	1	23

13. Number of defendants entered into the pretrial program with no prior criminal conviction:

St. Lucie	363
Okeechobee	22
Martin	23
Indian River	103
Total	511

- 14: Number of defendants who paid a surety cash or bail bond:

St. Lucie	446
Okeechobee	29
Martin	21
Indian River	129
Total	625

15. The number of defendants for whom a risk assessment tool was used in determining whether a defendant should be released pending the disposition of the case and the number of defendants for whom a risk assessment tool was not used.

The St. Lucie Pretrial Program does not use a risk assessment tool to determine defendants' eligibility. However, the program is governed by the Administrative Order to compile information on the defendant, should the Judge need it.

- 16: Any additional information deemed necessary by the governing body to assess the performance and cost efficiency of the pretrial release program.

2022 Annual Report and Summary-SLC Pretrial Program

The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program is a County-funded program, providing both pretrial and post-trial supervision by court order. The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program is sixteen (16) years old. Supervision is varied and can include GPS monitoring with house arrest, curfews, enrollink applications, furloughs and exclusion zones in cases involving a victim. Drug and alcohol testing are conducted through the St. Lucie County Drug Lab and other various labs, weekly reporting (or more often) to the office. Along with field work and residence checks that are conducted seven (7) days a week including holidays, and weekends, pretrial officers also respond to GPS alerts as needed. Pretrial is also required, as a condition of release, to ensure compliance with court orders.

In 2022, the Judiciary ordered new defendants to each one of the county's Pretrial Program, while each county also continued to supervise a number of existing defendants that the Judiciary ordered to the program in 2021. The number of bed days saved, the rate per day, and estimated savings vary from county to county.

In St. Lucie County in 2022, 528 new defendants entered the program. There were 144 carry-overs from 2021 so that a total of 672 defendants were supervised in 2022. There were 6,354 field/residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 56,037 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$80.81 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$4,528,350.00.

In Okeechobee County in 2022, the St. Lucie County Pretrial program supervised 39 new pretrial defendants. There were 14 carry-overs from 2021, so that a total of 53 defendants were supervised in 2022. There were 524 field/ residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 3,931 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$78.57 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$308,859.00.

In Martin County from January 1, 2022, through February 17, 2022, the St. Lucie County Pretrial program supervised 27 new pretrial defendants. There were 34 carry-overs from the year 2021 so that a total of 61 defendants were supervised in 2022. There were 195 field/ residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 1,813 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$106.00 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$192,178.00.

In Indian River County in 2022, the St Lucie County Pretrial program supervised 173 new pretrial defendants. There were 649 field/ residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 9,701 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$97.44 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$945,265.00.

The Program has continuously provided an alternative solution to incarceration by use of GPS tracking devices and enhanced supervision techniques. These methods are exceptionally helpful for defendants experiencing medical issues; thereby, significantly reducing taxpayer funded medical expenses (reduced cost to the county for on-going treatment, surgical procedures, and terminal defendants). The daily GPS cost per unit is now \$3.10 (down from \$8.00 per day in 2007), which provides for significant savings to taxpayers when an inmate could cost several thousand dollars a day for medical care.

The St. Lucie County Pretrial Program utilizes four (4) different lab locations for drug testing:

- 218 South 2nd St. Fort Pierce, FL
- 1680 Lyngate Drive Port St. Lucie, FL
- 406 NW 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL
- 435 SE Flagler Ave., Stuart, FL

In 2022, the total number of drug tests ordered and conducted by all four (4) labs was 2,090.

The Program initially started strictly for “pretrial supervision”, as an alternative to jail incarceration. The program provides the court with options for supervision of defendants pending disposition of criminal cases both in County and Circuit Court. While the jail over-crowding was one factor that was of main concern at the time, jail medical cases increased. The cost of jail medical care and treatment was another major concern. Releasing specific defendants to pretrial supervision permits them to continue medical treatment or surgery relieves the county of this exorbitant financial burden. (Defendants not in custody must use their own insurance or resources to cover medical expenses).

In addition, the County Court Judges requested consideration of the program providing enhanced supervision (as a condition of probation), to allow specific type cases to serve their sentence without incarceration (not losing their job, providing for their family, and at times receiving treatment and care for substance abuse, medical and mental health issues). More recently, the program has been used as a diversion or intervention mechanism. For the purpose of getting the defendant “back on track”. At times, a defendant may be in need of resources such as relocation of residence (especially in the instance of a domestic situation involving a victim), referral to services for substance abuse or mental health evaluations and treatment, drug testing, employment referral or even veteran’s services. Pretrial provides the Court with an option to offer appropriate services, while still providing public safety.