



## PRETRIAL RELEASE PROGRAM

"CITIZENS RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT"  
Section 907.043 Florida Statutes

### **2021 Annual Report**

***Based on statistical data tracked for period:  
1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021***

**Office Location:**  
*St Lucie County Courthouse  
218 S. 2nd Street  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950  
Telephone: (772) 462-6772  
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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 and Martin Counties have contracted with St. Lucie County to provide pretrial and GPS monitoring services for their respective counties.

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**ST. LUCIE COUNTY PRETRIAL PROGRAM**  
**2021 ANNUAL REPORT (PER F.S. 907.043)**  
**(1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021)**

- 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 and Martin 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 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 a county jail sentence.

In the spring of 2015, Okeechobee County requested the St. Lucie Pretrial Program assist them with their jail overcrowding issues. Okeechobee County has since developed a Public Safety Coordinating Council and it was recommended 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 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 2021, the program provided significant savings in St. Lucie 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 86,432 “bed days” were saved from jail incarceration during 2021. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) is approximately \$6,984,569.92. 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.

The program also provided significant savings 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 3,801 “bed days” were saved from jail incarceration during 2021. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) is approximately \$298,644.57. 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 2021, the program also provided significant savings in Martin County where a basic inmate (not including any medical costs) can cost the County \$106.00 per day. As a result of the program, approximately 13,394 “bed days” were saved from jail incarceration during 2021. The projected savings (again, not including medical costs) would be approximately \$1,419,764.00. 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 2021 annual reporting cycle, Martin County decided to terminate the program. As of February 2022, the Martin 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.**

**Total 2021 Pretrial Program budget - \$1,792,801.45**

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

#### **St Lucie County Pretrial Program Budget**

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,792,801.45</b>	<b>\$1,451,152.29</b>
<b>Capital Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,792,801.45</b>	<b>\$1,451,152.29</b>

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

**The Program is 100% St Lucie County funded with contributions from Martin County and Okeechobee County to fund the 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 program (including the GPS monitoring cost) is fully funded by St Lucie County Board of County Commissioners with contributions from Martin County and Okeechobee County 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 2021 amount collected was \$0.00.**

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

**Professional staff consists of 16 positions (Program Manager, two Supervisors, ten Pretrial Officers, two Case Managers and one Staff Assistant).**

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

**No defendants were assessed or interviewed for pretrial release. In St Lucie, Okeechobee and Martin Counties assessments and interviews are conducted in court by the presiding judge to determine pretrial suitability.**

**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).**

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

**The program does not recommend whether the release should be secured or non-secured. The Judiciary makes that decision.**

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

**The program does not recommend whether the release should be secured or non-secured. The Judiciary makes that decision.**

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

**No defendants were assessed or interviewed for pretrial release in St Lucie, Okeechobee, or Martin Counties.**

**Indigent Defendants**

<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>563</b>
<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>83</b>

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

**a. Failed to attend a scheduled court appearance.**

<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>0</b>

**b. Was issued a warrant for failing to appear.**

<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>1</b>

**c. Was arrested for any offense while on release through the Pretrial Release Program.**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Case Number:</b>	<b>County:</b>
<b>GLOVER,MITCHELL,BLAKE</b>	<b>562021MM000017</b>	<b>Saint Lucie</b>
<b>SWAN,KIMBERLY</b>	<b>562021MM000705</b>	<b>Saint Lucie</b>
<b>MALDONADO, HECTOR</b>	<b>562020MM001016</b>	<b>Saint Lucie</b>
<b>SZUMINSKI,SARAH</b>	<b>562021MM001221</b>	<b>Saint Lucie</b>
<b>LOPEZ,PEDRO,PABLO</b>	<b>432021MM001307</b>	<b>Martin</b>

**11. Number of defendants charged with dangerous crimes as defined in 907.041.**

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**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)**

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**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;**

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

- c. Failure to register s a sexual predator in violation of s. 775.21 or as a sexual offender in violation of s. 943.0435:

<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

- d. Facilitating or furthering terrorism in violation of s. 775.31:

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- e. A forcible felony as described in s. 776.08:

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- f. False imprisonment in violation of s. 787.02:

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

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

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**j.** Poisoning of food or water in violation of s. 859.01;

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**l.** A capital offense in violation of chapter 893;

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>279</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>54</b>

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

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

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

<b>St Lucie</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>
<b>92</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

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

<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>449</b>
<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>



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

<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>515</b>
<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>639</b>

15. The number of defendant 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 Saint Lucie Pretrial Program does not use a risk assessment tool to determine defendants' eligibility. However, the program is governed by the Administration 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.

**2021 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, which is now 15 years old. Supervision is varied and can include GPS monitoring with house arrest, curfews, enrollink applications and exclusion zones in cases involving a victim. Drug and alcohol testing through the SLC Drug Lab, weekly reporting (or more often) to the office, and field /residence checks (seven days a week including holidays, and response to GPS alerts 24/7 as needed) are also required as conditions of release to ensure compliance with court orders.

In St. Lucie County, in 2021, 593 new defendants entered the program and 177 carry-overs from 2020 totaling 770 defendants supervised in 2021. There were 8,447 field/residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 86,432 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$80.81 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$6,984,569.92.

In Okeechobee County, in 2021 the St. Lucie County Pretrial program supervised 39 new pretrial defendants, totaling 39 defendants supervised in 2021. There were 503 field/ residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 3,801 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$78.57 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$298,644.57.

In Martin County, in 2021 the St Lucie County Pretrial program supervised 155 new pretrial defendants, 32 defendants were carry-overs from the year 2020 totaling 187 defendants supervised in 2021. There were 1,721 field/ residence checks conducted during the year. Approximately 13,394 "bed days" were saved at the rate of \$106.00 per day (without medical), for an estimated savings of \$1,419,764.00.

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 \$3.35 (down from \$8.00 per day in 2007), which provides for a tremendous savings when an inmate could cost several thousand dollars a day for medical care.

**The St. Lucie 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 2021, the total number of drug tests ordered and conducted by all four (4) labs was 2,330. 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 are on the horizon. 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 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 for public safety.