

Minnesota Pretrial Release Evaluation Form and Assessment Tool (MNPAT)



What is the Minnesota Pretrial Release Evaluation Form and Assessment Tool (MNPAT)?

The MNPAT is a research-based tool that helps judges make informed release decisions. It guides decisions such as release on the defendant's own recognizance, release on conditions, or release on bail or bond. It gives information that helps predict whether a person is likely to return to court for another hearing or to commit a crime during the pretrial period.

What are the benefits to using the MNPAT?

- Can reduce the impact of implicit bias.
- Provides judges the most predictive and least biased information for making pretrial decisions.
- Allows all parties to work from the same information since they all receive the MNPAT before the hearing.
- Provides a method for the MJB to validate data collected on the MNPAT to ensure effectiveness of the tool in release decisions.

Who is responsible for scoring and completing the MNPAT?

Probation or their designee is responsible for completing the MNPAT before a defendant's first appearance. (See Minn. Stat. § 629.74.) They are also responsible for delivering the completed MNPAT to the court before the first appearance. The court or probation or their designee provides copies to all parties.

How does the MNPAT affect outcomes for defendants?

Judges use the MNPAT's consistent information to help them make pretrial release decisions. Studies suggest that the use of an objective pretrial risk assessment tool, along with judicial discretion, results in the best outcomes for pretrial defendants.

When is the Judicial Branch implementing the MNPAT?

Counties may begin using the MNPAT in October 2018. All counties using it are required to implement the tool no later than December 1, 2018.

What resources are available to answer questions about the MNPAT?

For more information about the MNPAT, see the Pretrial Release Initiative Website: <http://mncourts.gov/GovernmentPartners/Pretrial-Release-Initiative.aspx>. Click the **Contact Us** tab on the webpage to submit a question.