

Pretrial Risk Assessment Information System Texas (PRAISTX)

The Office of Court Administration has developed a web-based risk assessment instrument – Pretrial Risk Assessment Information System (PRAISTX) – as a tool to assist judges in making pretrial release decisions. The tool is being piloted in several jurisdictions.

What does PRAISTX do?

PRAISTX provides judges with information about the likelihood that a defendant released pretrial will fail to appear or that the defendant will commit a new crime, including a violent crime. **The use of PRAISTX is not a substitute for the application of judicial discretion.**

PRAISTX is based on objective factors about each arrested individual. These factors have been shown to correlate with a defendant’s failure to appear and risk of committing a new crime. No defendant interview is required with PRAISTX. The tool provides judges with individual risk scores relating to failure to appear and new offending for each defendant. Scores are based on nine factors:

Current offense	Pending charges at time of current offense	Age at current arrest
Prior misdemeanor conviction(s)	Prior felony conviction(s)	Number of violent convictions
Number of pretrial FTAs in last 2 years	Pretrial FTAs in cases older than 2 years	Previously sentenced to jail/prison > 14 days

What are the limits of PRAISTX?

PRAISTX should not be used to automatically detain or release a defendant pretrial. PRAISTX does not generate specific recommendations about conditions of pretrial release a judge may want to impose.

While PRAISTX does not require an interview with a defendant, it does require that information about a defendant be entered into a web-based application. In its current stage of development, PRAISTX does not extract data related to the nine required factors from any case management system; data regarding these factors must be manually entered into PRAISTX.

Why use PRAISTX?

- ✓ PRAISTX can help judges make objective, risk-based pretrial release decisions.
- ✓ PRAISTX can help judges reduce the negative impact of unnecessary detention on individuals at low risk of failure to appear or failure to commit a new crime.
- ✓ PRAISTX can help reduce jail costs by supporting timely and reliable decision-making about pretrial detention and by reserving jail space for those defendants at risk of failure to appear or to commit a new crime.

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