



# Judiciary of Guam

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PRESIDING JUDGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Judiciary Publishes Snapshot of Pre-trial Release Performance

(Hagåtña, Guam) — In an effort to grow its data collection to better serve those impacted by the Court, the Judiciary of Guam has published a snapshot of its pre-trial release performance.

The snapshot, prepared at the direction of Chief Justice Torres, is the first installment in a series of periodic updates on the outcomes of the Judiciary of Guam's pre-trial justice system. Data from the Judiciary's Probation Services Division was collected for all new cases filed since the beginning of the administration from January 2023 to July 20, 2023.

According to the report, **98%** of all released defendants were **not arrested for a new violent offense**, **89%** remained arrest-free, and **83%** were **not issued a warrant for Failure to Appear (FTA)** in court.

The Pretrial Services Office is a section of the Probation Services Division of the Judiciary of Guam. Pre-trial officers screen and assess all defendants, regardless of their charges, to verify information and criminal history. While the assessment helps the Court decide whether to detain or release defendants, judicial officers are required to adhere to 8 GCA §40.10 and §40.15, which mandates defendant release. If there are concerns about the defendant not complying with release conditions, 8 GCA §40.20 offers a list of options for judicial officers to follow, prioritizing the least restrictive conditions and avoiding incarceration whenever possible.

*“Data is not just important, it’s essential. It provides us with insights on what works and what doesn’t and helps us make the most of taxpayer resources,”* said Chief Justice Torres. *“The information gathered during this period will aid the Pretrial Services Office and the Judiciary in assessing the effectiveness of the pretrial justice system while striking a balance between public safety and the rights of defendants,”* concluded Chief Justice Torres.

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