

Toward Safety, Liberty, and Equity:

A Community-Centered Framework for Redesigning Minnesota's Pretrial System

For 18 months, MNJRC studied Minnesota's pretrial system (everything that happens between arrest or citation and the resolution of a criminal case). We traveled across the country and state to learn from criminal legal system workers, dig deep into previous research, and listen to community members like you. **One thing is for sure: people across Minnesota agree that our current pretrial system is not working as it should.** And addressing its failures is going to take more than small reforms.

The MNJRC strongly recommends comprehensive, system-wide transformation.

MNJRC'S RECOMMENDATIONS to the legislature:

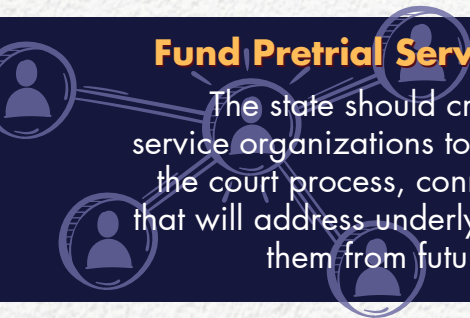
Use Least Restrictive Conditions

When judges set conditions for release, they should use the fewest, least restrictive conditions necessary to meet the goals of public safety and court appearance.



Fund Pretrial Service Organizations

The state should create and fund pretrial service organizations to help people navigate the court process, connect them to resources that will address underlying needs, and divert them from future system-involvement.



Support Victims of Harm

Victims of harm should be heard throughout the pretrial process, be provided notice of case developments, and have access to wraparound services.



Expand Cite & Release

Where possible, instead of arresting people and booking them into jail, law enforcement should issue citations and release people at the scene with orders to appear in court at a later date.



Guarantee a Right to Counsel

Everyone should be represented by an attorney at hearings where bail and other pretrial conditions are decided.



Establish an Intentional Release/Detain System

In this system, which would **no longer use cash bail**, only people accused of certain serious crimes would be eligible for pretrial detention, and they would have longer, more substantive hearings before being detained.



Learn about the project and read the report at mnjrc.org/pretrial-best-practices



Flip over for ways to get involved!



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CALLS TO ACTION

Join the Pretrial Justice Coalition

Pretrial Justice Minnesota is using this research to build a pretrial system that better accounts for community safety, empowers survivors and victims, and gives all defendants equal access to pretrial freedom and justice, regardless of wealth.

Take action by becoming a member of the Coalition or Network, or by volunteering with Minnesota Freedom Fund's Court Watch program to ensure the pretrial system does not operate in the dark.



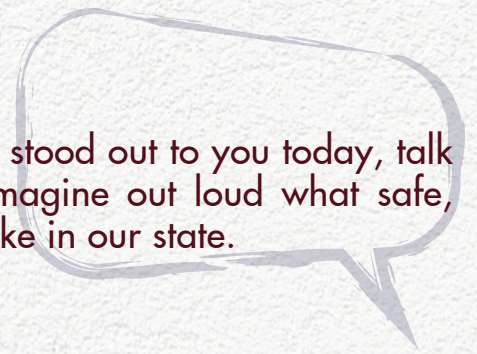
Visit pretrialjusticemn.org to learn more.

Join the conversation

Your voice matters! If you're interested in writing your reflections in a blog post or recording your takeaways from the research for a video, reach out to mabel@mnjrc.org.

Spread the word + stay in the know

Tell friends and family about the research findings that stood out to you today, talk about our six recommendations, and continue to reimagine out loud what safe, liberatory, and equitable pretrial practices could look like in our state.



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