

# Responsible Use of the Public Safety Assessment

Sites that use the PSA must adhere to Arnold Ventures' [Terms of Use](#), and they should follow PSA best practices. The PSA [Implementation Guides](#) and resources are designed to help jurisdictions comply with the core requirements and use the PSA responsibly and with fidelity.

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## PSA Core Requirements

### When to Use the PSA

Use the PSA only for the [group of people](#) for whom it was developed. This includes adults charged with an offense who have been arrested and booked into jail and are waiting for their case to be disposed.

### PSA Factors

Score the PSA using only the [nine PSA factors](#). Answer the PSA's nine factors using only the data and the definitions detailed in the [Guide to the PSA Factors and Outcomes](#) and the PSA Scoring Manual.

### Scoring

Do not alter the PSA's [nine factors](#), their point values, and the scaled scoring rules.

### PSA Results

The PSA's nine factors must be used to calculate [three scores](#): Failure to Appear (FTA), New Criminal Arrest (NCA), and New Violent Criminal Arrest (NVCA). FTA and NCA must be reported as a scaled score, and NVCA must be reported as the presence or absence of a flag. Report these three scores separately. Do not combine them into one score.

### Automated Scoring

To avoid human error, assessors must use an [automated system](#) to calculate PSA scores. Calculating the scores by hand is strictly prohibited.

### Transparency

Be transparent. Include a person's results for each of the PSA's nine factors and their three scores on each pretrial [assessment report](#).

### Quality Assurance

Implement an ongoing [quality assurance](#) process to ensure that the PSA is scored accurately and reported correctly.

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## PSA Best Practices

### Validation

Validate the PSA before using it in your jurisdiction. If you cannot validate it prior to its use, validate it after one year of use. Revalidate the PSA every few years.

### Release Conditions Matrix

Create and use a [Release Conditions Matrix](#). The matrix should include pretrial release conditions informed by pretrial law and research. Release conditions should be the least restrictive ones that help the person appear in court and remain law-abiding pretrial. The matrix should never include detention or financial conditions of release.

### Report on Success

In the pretrial [assessment report](#), show the results of the PSA factors and express the person's PSA scores as a likelihood of success, not failure.

### Case Management

Use a [case management system](#) to track court case processing decisions, such as release or detention, release conditions, and people's pretrial success, such as court appearances and no new arrests.

### Performance Measurement

Measure pretrial processes and [outcomes](#) informed by the PSA as frequently as practical (monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually). Include measurements of disparities based on race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic factors, and other demographics of interest. Adjust pretrial policies and practices to eliminate disparities.

### Continuous Improvement

At least every 3 to 6 months, have a multidisciplinary team monitor, evaluate, and improve pretrial practices informed by the PSA. The team should consist of pretrial stakeholders and the broader community, including the people most impacted by the pretrial system.

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## Resources

The [APPR Help Desk](#) is staffed by people trained on the PSA and the implementation process. APPR hosts trainings related to PSA implementation and other pretrial practices. [Sign up](#) with APPR to receive timely notification about trainings. Another resource is the [APPR Community](#). Connect with peers to discuss the PSA and pretrial justice.