



Public Safety Report System (PSRS) Overview

Judges and Magistrates

Overview and Information

The Public Safety Report System (PSRS) was created in response to Senate Bill 6 (Damon Allen Act), enacted in April 2021 to strengthen Texas' bail-setting process and enhance public safety. The Legislature required the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to develop and maintain a statewide system that ensures magistrates have reliable, standardized criminal history information and that all bail decisions are reported consistently.

Statutory Foundation

Article 17.021, Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) outlines the requirements that must be present in the overall system.

- (a) *The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System shall develop and maintain a public safety report system that is available for use for purposes of Article [17.15](#).*
- (b) The public safety report system must:
 - (1) state the requirements for setting bail under Article [17.15](#) and list each factor provided by Article [17.15\(a\)](#);
 - (2) provide the defendant's name and date of birth or, if impracticable, other identifying information, the cause number of the case, if available, and the offense for which the defendant was arrested;
 - (3) provide information on the eligibility of the defendant for a personal bond;
 - (4) provide information regarding the applicability of any required or discretionary bond conditions;
 - (5) provide, in summary form, the criminal history of the defendant, including information regarding any:
 - (A) previous misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (B) pending charges;
 - (C) previous sentences imposing a term of confinement;
 - (D) previous convictions or pending charges for:
 - (i) offenses that are offenses involving violence as defined by Article [17.03](#); or
 - (ii) offenses involving violence directed against a peace officer; and
 - (E) previous failures of the defendant to appear in court following release on bail; and
 - (6) be designed to collect and maintain the information provided on a bail form submitted under Section [72.038](#), Government Code.

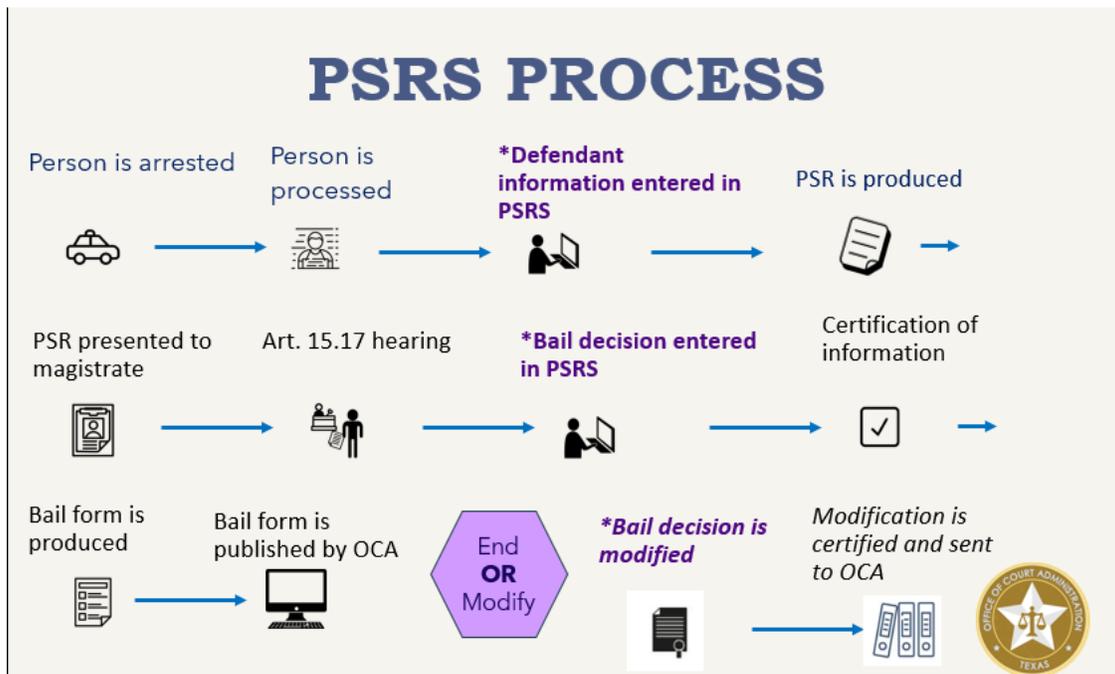
Practical Functionality

At its core, the PSRS serves two primary functions:

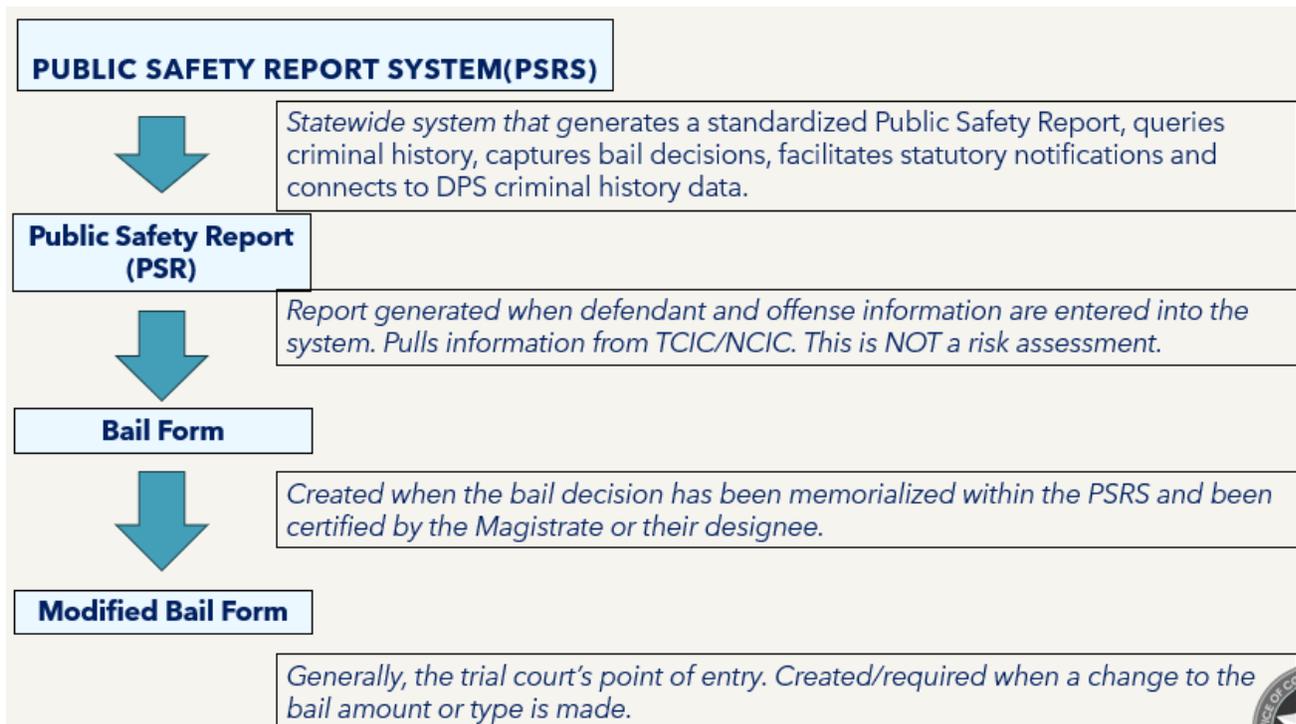
- 1. Provide magistrates with critical criminal history information at the time bail is considered.**
The system generates a Public Safety Report (PSR) for every defendant arrested on a class B or higher offense. The PSR summarizes the defendant's criminal history and personal-bond eligibility. The PSR further notes possible discretionary or mandatory bond conditions available and restates the statutory factors magistrates must consider under Article 17.15, CCP. As a result of Senate Bill 9 (89th Legislature) additional information such as outstanding warrants, failure to appear summary, emergency protective order involvement (if applicable), supervised release status and conditions of any Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI) the defendant is participating.
- 2. Create a uniform, statewide method for reporting bail decisions to OCA.**
Each time bail is set, the magistrate must submit a standardized bail form through the PSRS documenting the bail amount, bond type, conditions, and required statutory certifications. Additionally, if the bail amount, bail type or a mandatory release as outlined in 17.151, CCP is ordered, it should be reflected on a Bail Form Modification. This reporting requirement promotes transparency, consistency, and statutory compliance across all counties.

The system is not intended to replace local procedures or serve as a comprehensive case management tool. Instead, it ensures that magistrates make informed and legally compliant bail decisions while providing prosecutors, courts, and the state with accurate and complete data on those decisions.

Visualizing the Process



*Point of Entry into the PSRS



When Must I consider the PSR?*

Under Chapter 17, CCP, a judge must consider the public safety report before setting bail and promptly, but not later than 48 hours after bail is set, submit the bail form to the OCA.

The bail form is intended to capture the moment in time the bail is set or modified. Therefore, bail data should be entered:

- ✓ At initial bail setting, during the 15.17 hearing;
- ✓ When the type of bond or amount of bond is modified;
- ✓ When a 17.151 mandatory release is ordered

*See last page of this document for a one-page bench reference sheet

Importance of Certifying the Bail Form

Upon completion of the bail form, it must be certified by the Judge/Magistrate or their designee. Certifying the bail form triggers the system to send notification to OCA. Statutorily, certification is required no later than 48 hours after bail is set.

It is important to note that failure to certify the bail form prohibits it from being modified later and does not trigger the system to report to OCA. Additionally, mandatory notifications (District Attorney and Cross County) cannot be made until the bail form is certified.

Required Training

Only judges who are compliant with the judicial education requirements of Art. 17.024, Code of Criminal Procedure may set bail for a defendant who has been charged with a Class B misdemeanor or higher category offense.

- ✓ **Duties of Magistration:** Training provided by appropriate judicial education entity.
- ✓ **Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS):** Training can be set by your agency Terminal Access Coordinator (TAC) with Department of Public Safety (DPS). Certification must be completed annually.

(Optional) TLETS Mobile Access:

Query a Criminal History - If a Magistrate queries a criminal history within in the PSRS, this DPS training **IS** required.

View a Criminal History - If a Magistrate will only review an already queried criminal history in the PSR, this training is **NOT** required.

Review of the PSR

The PSR is available in full within the PSRS and it is recommended that the Judge access the PSRS to view all pieces of information available. A printed copy will not include pertinent information such as failure to appear history, protective order information, pretrial intervention conditions, status of supervised release, out of state criminal history and other information.

Difference between a Bail Form and a Modified Bail Form

Bail Form – is utilized when the initial bail decision is made to capture date/time, location, bail type, amount or denial and bond conditions. **Modified Bail Form** – is utilized when the initial bail decision is being modified with regard to bail type, bail amount or when a 17.151, CCP, mandatory release is ordered.

It is **not** required to modify the bail form if bond conditions are being modified.

	When is a Bail Form Required?	Bail Form Required?
INITIAL SETTING OF BOND	Magistrations and setting bail after arrest on a warrant (no indictment or complaint)	Yes
	Magistrations and setting bail after warrantless arrest	Yes
MODIFICATION OF CURRENT BOND	Changing the type of bond (between personal, cash/surety, or bond denial)	Yes
	Changing the amount of bond	Yes
	Denial of request for personal bond	No
	Changes to bond conditions	No
	Denial of request to change bond conditions	No
	Setting new bail after surety surrender on previous bail	Yes
BOND FORFEITURE & REVOCATION (Are you actually setting bail or just directing re-arrest?)	Judge revokes bond	No
	Judge forfeits bond	No
	Forfeit or revoke bond and issue capias	No
	After arrest on forfeiture, defendant is brought, and Judge sets a bond that is the same as the previous bond	No
	After arrest on forfeiture, defendant is brought, and Judge sets a bond amount different from previous bond	Yes
	With defendant present, Judge orders a bond revocation and denies bond (and takes D into custody) or sets new bond	Yes
	After a bond denial, the judge later reinstates the previous bond	Yes
WARRANTS	Issuing a capias	No
	Issuing arrest warrants	No
	Recalling a warrant	No
ARREST WARRANT AFTER INDICTMENT	After arrest following an indictment for new charges	Yes
	After arrest following an indictment if there is a change to the previous bond	Yes
	After arrest, following an indictment but no new charges and no change to the previous bond	No
PROBATION VIOLATION (REGULAR & DEFERRED)	Making any change to the type or amount of the initial bond set after arrest	Yes
	Issuing a warrant for probation violation	No
	Setting an initial bond after arrest on the warrant	Yes