

Tulsa County Court Services has Long-Standing History, Employs Modern Technologies



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tulsa County has had a pretrial supervision program since 1963
- Called Tulsa County Court Services today, the program uses alcohol monitoring and GPS tracking to support supervision services to between 100 and 150 offenders daily
- The electronic supervision technologies help alleviate jail overcrowding and provide an extra level of detail

THE PROGRAM

Tulsa County, home to almost 600,000 residents, has grown significantly in the last few of decades, placing a strain on the local criminal justice system. Pretrial services have been provided in Tulsa County for almost 50 years, beginning in 1963 when the local bar association instituted the Tulsa County Pretrial Release Program. In 1983, Tulsa County's commissioners ordered the creation of a more formal pretrial release program to ease serious overcrowding at the county jail. Based on its success, the division became a 24-hour operation in 1985. In 2001, the division changed its name to Tulsa County Division of Court Services when the commissioners decided to make the department responsible for supervising a more diverse population, which today includes offenders from specialty courts and specialty programs of Oklahoma's 14th Judicial District.

Today, the Tulsa County Division of Court Services operates a comprehensive community supervision program, offering services such as:

- Unsupervised, supervised, and special needs pretrial release
- Pre- and post-sentence court-ordered supervision
- Pre-sentence Investigation reporting
- Risk and needs assessments (LSI-R)
- Alcohol monitoring services
- Electronic monitoring
- Monitored schedules for pre- and post-sentence offenders
- Mental health jail diversion participation
- Inmate work and work-release programs
- Community services program (adult and juvenile)
- Community sentencing and drug court participation with team members
- Absconder location services and other court services as ordered

Today, the department supervises about between 400 and 500 individuals each day with the goals of providing complete and accurate information to judges within the judicial district; improving release and detention decisions; actively supervising pretrial defendants and convicted offenders

with cost-effective practices to ensure court requirements are being satisfied; and maintaining the integrity of the court while maintaining public safety. Offenders are referred to the agency, where they are screened and assessed prior to community supervision. The department is highly trained in this assessment process as public safety is its top priority.

Tulsa County Court Services has used electronic monitoring technology to support its mission since 2000. Only certain individuals are placed on the electronic supervision technologies, based on assessed risks and needs. BI Incorporated has supported the agency with electronic supervision technologies since 2006. Today, the department manages between 100 and 150 people daily with the following BI technologies:

- BI ExacuTrack® AT is an active tracking system that incorporates the use of Global Positioning System technology. The system is usually reserved for the highest risk individuals as it provides near real-time GPS data, meaning the GPS data is relayed to the monitoring center via cellular transmissions as the individual moves about the community. Officers directly access and manage offender schedules, zones, and other details 24/7/365 via a secure web portal. Tulsa County, which places approximately 50 individuals on ExacuTrack AT at any given time, was BI's first active GPS customer.
- BI Sobrietor® is a handheld device that detects the presence of alcohol through a deep-lung breath sample. This system is reserved for individuals either arrested for alcohol-related charges or a history of alcohol problems. While daily counts vary, Tulsa County has monitored up to 100 individuals on Sobrietor at times.

The bulk of the agency's caseload consists of pretrial defendants, resulting in a higher risk for fleeing the area. As a result, the department has a unique policy of responding immediately to many curfew violations or other infractions, 24 hours a day. To do this, the company relies on active GPS tracking technology.

THE RESULTS

- The use of supervision technology has supported Tulsa County to reduce jail overcrowding by diverting appropriate candidates to community supervision.
- Using advanced electronic monitoring technology, including GPS tracking, the division can closely monitor individuals released to community supervision, including higher risk offenders.
- The GPS technology helps Tulsa County Court Services respond quickly when its officials receive notice that a suspect may have missed curfew or entered a "zone" not allowed by the system.
- Through the use of electronic monitoring systems, the agency is better able to provide judges with objective data on individuals' compliance to court requirements. In addition, the use of technology and related monitoring services has helped supervising officers cover more territory efficiently and ensure verifiable accountability while defendants are in the community.
- The use of technology has helped contain costs, as community supervision is much less expensive than jail incarceration.

TECHNOLOGY:

- BI ExacuTrack® AT
- BI Sobrietor



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