

Study Questions

Bail and Corrections Reform

Some questions contain multiple options which may be combined or selected individually. You can choose more than one option. Please read each question through before answering and discuss as a whole.

- 1) A person accused of a crime should be released awaiting trial **without bail** if:
 - a. a risk assessment tool indicates that the defendant is likely to appear in court;
 - b. the defendant does not pose a threat to victims, others or the community;
 - c. the jurisdiction has pretrial services to monitor and/or treat the defendant;
- 2) Conditions for pretrial release should be determined based on:
 - a. a validated, evidence-based, race-neutral risk scoring instrument;
 - b. information presented at the initial appearance and bail review hearing;
 - c. an in-person assessment of the defendant whenever possible;
 - d. judicial discretion;
- 3) Should bail be abolished?

Even if you said, “Yes” to question 3 above, please answer question 4.

- 4) If bail continues to be authorized by law, it should be imposed:
 - a. if there is a risk that the defendant will not appear in court for trial;
 - b. with consideration of the defendant’s ability to pay bail;
 - c. if all alternatives have been considered and rejected.
- 5) Pretrial services should:
 - a. be required in all jurisdictions;
 - b. provide supervision and use automated means of ensuring court appearance, when possible;
 - c. include a range of services including treatment programs, when possible.
- 6) Funding for pretrial services should be:
 - a. partially funded by the state, with the balance funded by the counties
 - b. fully funded by the state
 - c. based exclusively on savings realized through reduced prison populations;
 - d. approved without regard to savings realized through reduced prison populations;
 - e. partially funded by financial contribution from defendant, when appropriate.
- 7) Should the use of bail bond agents be disallowed?

Even if you said, “yes” on question 7, please answer question 8.

- 8) Bail bond agents should be:
 - a. closely regulated and monitored;
 - b. subject to recourse for abuse;
 - c. utilized to supervise released defendants and track down any who fail to appear.