

---

**Sponsor:** County Attorney's Office

**Meeting Date:** 12/3/2024

**Title:** Memorandum of Understanding with the Partners of the Ramsey County Bail Reform Work Group for the Supported Pre-Charge Release Process

**File Number:** 2024-530

---

**Background and Rationale:**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to set forth the goals and details of the pre-charge release process to ensure mutual understanding and demonstrate support for the initiative. Nothing in this MOU creates any legal obligation or supersedes any legal or policy requirements for any of the partners of the Ramsey County Bail Reform Work Group (BRWG). This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the partners and will remain in effect until January 1, 2026 or until terminated by any one of the partners.

The Ramsey County BRWG is a collaborative effort between justice system stakeholders, nonprofit groups, and community members dedicated to improving Ramsey County's pretrial system by prioritizing community well-being and safety and reducing reliance on cash bail. The BRWG goals are to eliminate the harm to communities caused by the for-profit cash bail system while improving public safety and court appearances by:

- Transitioning from a system based on wealth to one based on risk.
- Reducing the reliance on the cash bail system.
- Ensuring no one is held because of an inability to pay.
- Reducing the jail population.
- Increasing court appearance rate.
- Engaging community members to develop and be part of system alternatives including, but not limited to a pretrial assessment tool.
- Orienting systems around promoting community safety and wellbeing.

The pre-charge release process is one method the BRWG has developed to achieve some of these goals by providing a process for people who meet certain eligibility criteria to be released immediately after booking, provide navigation services that help them successfully appear in court if needed, and access to any supportive services they may need.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the partners of the Ramsey County Bail Reform Work Group for the Supported Pre-Charge Release Process.
2. Authorize the Board Chair to execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.  
Motion passed.

Aye: - 5: Frethem, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: McGuire

By: Jason Yang  
Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board