



## Released on Own Recognizance

1.3.13

Our Constitution requires judges to promptly release new arrestees from jail without bail unless the prosecutor can prove they present a significant safety or flight risk. The arrestee who is released on their own recognizance must simply promise to appear for trial and be subject to release conditions related to their offense (no contact with victim, no use of alcohol for alcohol related offenses, etc.) The majority of arrestees are released without bail (or with minimal) bail unless they have committed a crime of substantial violence or have a history of missing court hearings. The key to smart management of this low cost alternative to pre-trial incarceration is to have meaningful release conditions and close monitoring of those conditions. This costs money, but is far cheaper than the \$120 per day cost of jail.

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**For more information on the Smart Justice Campaign go to [www.smartjusticespokane.org](http://www.smartjusticespokane.org), or contact:**

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