DOING JUSTICE
FOR THE PEOPLE OF FULTON COUNTY
While all justice systems are aimed at enforcing laws and ensuring accountability, at the core, they are about people. Fulton County, Georgia’s reforms are aimed at better outcomes. Among them:

01 The low-risk accused who, while waiting for trial, can be released to continue working and supporting his family until the timely resolution of his case.

02 The victims and community members who feel safe knowing that high-risk accused are held in jail and, if guilty, are brought to justice in a fair, timely manner.

03 Attorneys and their clients who benefit from timely, accurate information about—and resolution of—their cases.

04 Mental health and homelessness advocates who feel more confident that those suffering from such conditions are treated humanely and directed to resources that can help.

05 County taxpayers who value the hallmarks of an efficient, effective system—including fewer low-risk people in jail, more timely resolution of cases and fewer repeat offenders.

**FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA’S JUSTICE SYSTEM IS LARGE AND COMPLEX**

- 2,500 average daily population in Fulton County jails
- That translates to 800,000 “jail bed days” every year

**THE FULTON COUNTY JUSTICE SYSTEM INTERACTS AND MANAGES ACCROSS**

- 3 layers of County-specific courts
- 16 municipal courts and jails

**PLUS OTHER COUNTIES AND THE STATE’S PRISION AND COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY SYSTEM**
AND IT COMES AT A HIGH COST TO TAXPAYERS

$240 MILLION ANNUALLY
That’s almost half of the County’s annual general fund expenditure

BUT EVEN AFTER ALL THAT INVESTMENT, QUESTIONS PERSISTED

Are our communities safe?
Are we doing our best to understand and address underlying causes of crime?
Is our justice system achieving the right results?
How can we better serve all citizens—and spend fewer taxpayer dollars doing it?

FULTON COUNTY WORKED WITH ACCENTURE TO CREATE A VISION FOR THE JUSTICE SYSTEM—AND A PLAN FOR ACHIEVING IT.

THE COUNTY ARTICULATED SIX OUTCOMES TO HELP KEEP ALL CITIZENS SAFE.

1. Handle cases in a timely manner
2. Balance safety, compliance and cost through appropriate detention and release
3. Enforce laws while reducing the rate of re-offense
4. Provide humane treatment for the mentally ill
5. Treat everyone involved in the justice system with fairness and respect
6. Enhance cost-effectiveness

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TO ACHIEVE THE SIX OUTCOMES, FULTON COUNTY IS PURSUING 14 REFORMS ACROSS FIVE KEY AREAS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

**PRE-ARREST**
- Expand training and mental health support for front-line public safety personnel
- Explore alternatives to arrests

**DETENTION DECISION**
- Change process for pretrial release
- Deploy resources where needed most
- Use motivational interviewing to improve program success

**IN THE JAIL**
- Improve mental illness screening, assessment and monitoring

**IN THE COURTS**
- Adopt and report on performance standards
- Improve coordination across courts and programs
- Consolidate court management and administration
- Fine-tune clerking services

**COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY**
- Improve access to federal benefits for eligible defendants
- Develop formal process for re-entry programs
- Establish written plans for community transition
- Expand coalition of service providers to support community re-entry
BY POSITIONING ITSELF FOR A MORE INTEGRATED, MORE EFFICIENT JUSTICE SYSTEM, FULTON COUNTY CAN ACHIEVE THE OUTCOMES THAT TRULY MATTER.

01 Deal swiftly and fairly with criminals
02 Handle victims and witnesses with compassion and care
03 Improve how offenders re-integrate into society
04 Serve everyone with improved timeliness and accurate information

For justice systems everywhere, a focus on serving people, improving processes and increasing cost efficiency will yield better outcomes for all.

CASE CLOSED.

MEET THE EXPERTS

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