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All About Bail Bonds

By Ivar Rudi

When someone is accused of committing a criminal act, they are most commonly arrested and taken to jail. Before they can be released from jail while pending trial, someone must bail them out, or pay a bail bonds agency to step in and take over the process. The following paragraphs will answer some frequently asked questions about the process, thus helping the reader to better understand how it work.

What are Bail Bonds?

It is basically a type of bond used in order to achieve the release of someone who is incarcerated, and has been ordered to give bail in order to be released pending trial. Once it have been posted on behalf of the suspect, the accused is then released from police custody pending the final outcome of the trial. If the person does not return to court for his/her trial, the ordered amount is then forfeited, as well as any other collateral filed with the court as part of the bail bonds.

Who Issues Bail Bonds?

It is most commonly issued by licensed bail bondsmen. These agencies specialize in the field of issuing bail bonds, and seeing that their clients do show up in court when their trial begins, they must be licensed by the state.

How Much Do Bail Bonds Agencies Charge for Their Services?

The average cost of hiring them to get someone out of jail until closure of their criminal case is right around 10 percent of the actual bond cost. This does not include actual expenses agencies, which include any necessary and reasonable expense incurred with the association of the transaction. Agencies do not determine the cost of the bonds. That is up to the court to determine.

What Do Bail Bonds Agencies Do For Their Clients?

They will commonly provide their clients with:

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receipts for any monies spent copies of all signed documentation information regarding the status of the bond, as well as status on any changes prompt return of any and all collateral upon exoneration of the bond

If you have been arrested, or if you are ever arrested, the first thing you should do is consult an attorney before making any sort of arrangements. Although sometimes hiring an agency is your only feasible option, your attorney may be able to help you explore possible alternatives.

Bounty Hunters Locate Bail "Jumpers"

When one hires to help obtain successful release from police custody, they are essentially promising they will return to court for trial. If they do not show up for trial, their bond is forfeited, thus causing many companies to enlist the help of bounty hunters, to locate and bring the subjects back for trial,

before the actual time of forfeiture. The following paragraphs will discuss the general rights of bounty hunters when their clients skip bail.

Skipping bail is a term commonly used to describe the act of accused individuals failing to make mandatory court appearances. When accused people "skip bail", the court will issue a bench warrant for their arrest, and schedule a court appearance on the matter. If the accused misses this court appearance, the amount is forfeited. This has inspired many agencies to work in conjunction with bounty hunters to locate the accused that have skipped bail, and bring them back before it have to be forfeited.

Locating and bringing jumpers back to court is often called "tracking a skip". This process of preventing bail bonds forfeiture is legal, and can often lead to bringing criminals to justice. If the accused is returned to court prior to the forfeiture date, the amount and all collateral may be returned. However, agencies will take their agreed to portion of the amount first.

Bounty hunters, also referred to as bail enforcers, are often permitted by law to locate, apprehend, and return people accused of a crime to court. In some states, the bondsman must be present for the apprehension, and sometimes they are the one required to make the arrest. In these type of arrests, there is usually no legal requirements to obtain search warrants or extradition documents. However, the bounty hunter must always be certain he has the right person. If not, both the bondsman and the bounty hunter can be held liable for false arrest charges.

State laws vary on the obligations and rights of bounty hunters in tracking a skip. Some states allow them, all means necessary in order to apprehend and arrest those who have skipped out, but other states have stricter laws. For additional information on your state laws regarding this, please contact a bail bondsman in your area.

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Different Ways To Make Bail Bonds

By Ivar Rudi

When someone has been read their rights, and taken into police custody, one of their main objectives is to meet the requirements of their bail bonds, and be released. Depending on the severity of their charges, the amount will be set, and until it is met, the defendant will stay in jail. The following paragraphs will discuss several ways defendants can meet their bail bonds and be released from jail pending trial.

The most common way people accused of crimes use to meet the requirements of their bail bond is by hiring a bail bond agency to help them. Near most jail houses, you can find several agencies eager to help out. The services they render are to act as a surety that the person they represent will return for trial. When you pay the bail bonds agencies a set fee, they will help get you out of jail until closure of your case. The main disadvantage of hiring a bail bonds agency to help with your bail bond, is the fee you agree to pay the bail bonds agency is not returned, even when your case is closed. The fee you pay them works like an "insurance premium" of sorts.

Another way to get out of jail when having been issued bail bonds amounts is to pay the full amount of the bail bonds in cash. This is another way of insuring the court you will return for trial, because at the closure of your trial, the court will return the entire amount of your bail bonds, without any fees being deducted.

Thirdly, which often makes sense to people who have had their bail bonds set high, is to post a property bond. This process can be complicated, and does require the services of a lawyer, it can be done. This way of meeting bail bonds amounts is simply putting up real property to guarantee you will appear in court as ordered. The property, or any other real collateral, is released upon completion of the trial.

Finally, when a person has not been accused of a violent crime, and they are not viewed as a flight risk, they can be released on their own recognizance. This simply means they will be released from jail without any bail being required, on just their signature, and promise they will return for trial.

Paying the Entire Bail Bond Amount

One option of meeting the conditions of bail bonds is to pay the entire amount ordered by a judge. If you can afford this option, it is best. By paying the complete amount of bail bonds, not only you assuring the court you will return, but you will also get the entire amount back at the conclusion of your case. There are no fees, but you must reappear in court, as ordered. If you fail to reappear at all scheduled hearings, the amount of your bail bonds could be forfeited.

Your Own Recognizance

For crimes that are non-violent, and where the defendants are not viewed as a flight risk, some judges will not set bail bonds amounts. Instead, they will allow the defendants to be released on their "own recognizance", or the promise they will return for their trials. If the defendants break that agreement,

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and fail to show up at all scheduled court hearings, they can be rearrested, and face additional charges.

Hire a Bail Bondsmen

By hiring a bail bondsmen, the bail bondsmen will handle everything it takes to get you out of jail. If you pay them an agreed upon fee, usually around 10 percent of the amount of the bail bonds, you will be released from jail with the bonding company serving as surety to insure you will appear in court as you are ordered to. If you fail to appear at all scheduled court hearings, it is very likely that you bail bondsmen will enlist the help of a bounty hunter to help track you down and bring you to court in order to prevent the bail bonds amount to be forfeited. The fee you pay the bail bondsmen is not returned when your case is concluded, it is for the bail bondsmen to keep for services rendered to you.

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