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BAIL BONDS

5 THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW

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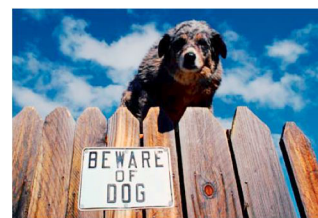
#1. What is a Bail Bond?



Bail bonds, also called *surety bonds* offer the court financial incentive for an arrested defendant to appear in front of a judge for their appointed court dates. In order to procure the release of a defendant while they are awaiting their arraignment, an indemnitor (*signer*) will sign a contract and pay the bail bondsman 10% of the total amount of the bail to "post the bond." The bondsman, puts up the total amount of the bond with the jail or court. The indemnitor or *signer*, along with the bail bond agency basically *guarantees* the defendant will follow through with their court appointed agreements. Once the defendant completes their obligations, the bail bond is exonerated and the liability goes away.

#2. Are You Like "Dog?"

The answer is, No. We're not like "Dog the Bounty Hunter." What Bail Bondsmen do is more *administrative* in nature. In basic terms, they are licensed to "post the bond" for the defendants' release from jail. Fugitive Recovery Agents, or (Bounty Hunters) use *investigative* means to locate the defendant for the bail bondsman, if they "skip bail." Bounty Hunters can physically retrieve the defendant and bring them back to court. So essentially, a *Bail Bondsman can get people out of jail. Bounty Hunters, can bring them back.*



#3. What's it Like Working with All Those Criminals?



We work with every day, individuals and families. This includes, moms, dads, working and retired professionals. Anyone can find themselves in a bit of trouble before they know it. We help them through what can be a very difficult time. We treat every individual with respect and privacy. The law states that all people are innocent until proven guilty. If the crime is very serious, most are not given the option of bail; or the bail is set so high, that it would be difficult for their families to afford it. Bail is set by the court with public security first in mind.

#4. How Much Does a Bail Bond Cost?

In the State of California, bail bonds cost 10% of the total amount of the bail. This non-refundable fee, (also called the premium), is set forth by the California Department of Insurance. Therefore, if the bail amount has been set at \$20,000, it would cost \$2,000 for the defendant to be bailed out. Bail agencies such as ours, offer a valuable public service as bail amounts can sometimes equal thousands, to tens-of-thousands of dollars. In these days of economic hardship, many people cannot afford to pay the court the full amount of the bail.



#5. Why Get a Bail Bond?



Being released from jail via bail bond provides much needed time for the defendant to take care of work, family or school responsibilities. It allows them time to hire an attorney and to present themselves in the best possible light at court.

Once the defendant goes to trial, they will either be cleared of all charges against them, pay a fine, or do community service. Some may serve additional time in jail. It's always best to consult with a professional bail bondsman who can answer all of your questions and take the time to weigh the options of every individual.

Robin Sandoval is a California Licensed Bail Bondsman and owner of SCV Bail Bonds. She, along with her husband Nuri, have several years of experience in California bail. Robin writes blogs and online content to increase community awareness of the bail industry. If you have any questions, feel free to email her at robin@scvbailbonds.com or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/scvbailbonds.