

After the Bail has been posted

What Happens Next?

If the person has been charged with a misdemeanor offense, the case will continue to be heard in Municipal Court and defendants will receive notice of their next court date. Felony cases, however, will be scheduled for a preliminary hearing. At the preliminary hearing one of two things will happen: the case may be dismissed, or it will be bound over to the Court of Common Pleas. If the case is bound over to Common Pleas Court it continues, including bond, where the new hearings will be set. The bond could be changed in Common Pleas Court. If the case is dismissed in Municipal Court everything including bond is treated accordingly. You should also be aware, however, that the Grand Jury could indict the defendant on the same charges and the case would begin anew in the Common Pleas Court.

How Do I Get My Bail Money Back?

When the defendant's case is completed, and bond money can be returned, the Clerk's Office will send the person who posted the bail a letter informing them the case is finished. For your convenience, you have the option of receiving your payment by mail or in person. Bail is refunded between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday excluding holidays.

To receive a refund in person, you must present photo identification. If you have specific questions about bail you posted, you may call 614-645-6903.

Clerk of Court's Criminal / Traffic Division

614-645-8186
Call Anytime

Bail Return

614-645-6903
Call Monday - Friday 8-4:30
Excluding Holidays

Franklin County Sheriff

614-462-3368
Call anytime

Common Pleas Court Clerk Criminal Division

614-462-3650
Call Monday-Friday 8-5
Excluding holidays

Lori M. Tyack
Clerk of Court

Franklin County Municipal Court
375 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
[Http://www.fcmclerk.com](http://www.fcmclerk.com)

Franklin County
Municipal Court

Posting Bail in the
Franklin County
Municipal Court



Lori M. Tyack,
Clerk of Court

Posting Bail

Posting bail for a loved one or friend can be confusing, especially in the largest court system in Ohio. Although our deputy clerks are trained to help you through this process, we realize that you may have many questions when considering posting bail.

When and How is Bail Posted?

The purpose of bail is to ensure that people charged with offenses appear at all scheduled court hearings. Bond is set one of two ways: either by a predetermined amount based upon the offense charged, or by a Judge. If the person is charged with an offense that has a predetermined bond, you may post bail at anytime after the person is in jail. Judges usually set bond in arraignment court for all other cases. Arraignments for persons being held in jail are usually 24 to 48 hours following their arrest. The Clerk's Office can tell you when a defendant is scheduled for arraignment court.

Where is Bail Posted?

Bail is posted for a person in jail with Municipal Court charges on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Court building, located at 375 S. High Street in Columbus. The Criminal Traffic Division is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and the telephone number is 614-645-8186. Payment on Municipal Court bonds can be made by cash, VISA, or MasterCard. If paying by credit card, the cardholder must be present.

Are There Different Types of Bonds?

Yes. Some bonds only require a signature for release, some bonds need cash posted, while others need a bondsman to post a surety with the court. Your responsibility depends on the type of bond that is set by the court. There are four types of bonds commonly used in the Municipal Court

Recognizance Bond— Sometimes referred to as a “recog bond”, this bond only requires the person who is charged with the offense to sign bond papers that are completed by the Clerk's Office. No other collateral needs to be posted. Failure to appear for all future court dates under a recognizance bond is a felony.

Appearance Bond—This type of bond only requires 10% of the full amount of the bond to be posted. For example, if a \$20,000 appearance bond is set you will only need to post \$2,000 with the Clerk's Office for release of the defendant. If the defendant attends all court appearances, 90% of the money posted will be returned. In our example, you would receive a check for \$1,800. If, however, the defendant misses a court appearance, you would be liable for the remainder of the bond set. In this example, you would owe the court \$18,000.

Cash Bond—You must post the entire amount of the bond that has been set before the defendant may be released. If the person attends all court hearings, we will return all the money you posted for bail.

Surety Bond—This bond requires the posting of a surety power from an insurance company that guarantees the full amount of the bond will be paid in the event that the defendant does not

appear for a scheduled court hearing. Representatives of bonding companies are not agents of the court nor are they employed by the court. Bonding companies can be found by looking in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book under “Bail”. The fee a bonding company charges is, normally, 10% of the bond that is set.

*Note— Many Judges set bonds as “cash or surety” thus giving the option of either.

Are There Other Fees Charged?

Yes. Before releasing the defendant, the Clerk must charge State fees of \$24 in misdemeanor cases and \$45 in felony cases. These fees are forwarded to the State unless there is a finding of “Not Guilty” or “Dismissal”. In these cases the State fees will be returned to the person charged with the offense.

When Will They Get Out of Jail?

Once bail is posted, the jail is sent a release form. The physical release of the prisoner is now the responsibility of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Generally, release can be a lengthy process. To find out about the specific person you are concerned about contact the Sheriff's Office at 614-462-3368.