

In the event that the forfeited Bail Amount is not paid by the Surety, an Order of Attachment against the Surety's assets may be made by the Court. Should the sale of these assets be unable to satisfy the Bail Amount to be forfeited, the Surety may be imprisoned up to 12 months.

### Can a Surety be discharged before the case against the Accused Person is concluded?

The Surety may be discharged only with the Court's permission.

If a Surety does not wish to continue being a Surety for the Accused Person, he or she may attend with the Accused Person at the next scheduled Court Event and apply to the Court to be discharged.

Alternatively, if the Surety does not wish to wait until the next scheduled Court Event, he or she may write to the Court (where the next Court Event is scheduled to take place) and request for an earlier date to be fixed for him or her to appear in Court to make an application for discharge. The Surety needs to ensure that the Accused is present when the application is made.

Once the Surety is discharged, and if there is no other person willing to be a Surety for the Accused Person, the Accused Person will be remanded forthwith.

### How can the Surety obtain a refund of the Bail Amount when the case against the Accused Person is concluded?

In the case of cash equivalent, the Surety must first obtain a letter of release from the court officer at the Court where the case against the Accused Person is concluded.

Thereafter, the Surety may proceed to the Finance counter located at the ground floor of the State Courts to collect his or her original bank documents.

If the Surety had paid cash for the Bail Amount, the full amount would be credited into the Surety's bank account within 21 days from the day that the case against the Accused Person is concluded.

### What are the operating hours of the Bail Centre?

#### Mondays to Thursdays

8.30 am – 1.00 pm (last registration at 12.30 pm)

2.00 pm – 6.00 pm (last registration at 5.00 pm)

#### Fridays

8.30 am – 1.00 pm (last registration at 12.30 pm)

2.00 pm – 5.30 pm (last registration at 4.30 pm)

#### Saturdays

8.30 am – 1.00 pm (last registration at 12.00 pm)

### How does the Accused Person or Surety make applications to the Bail Centre?

Applications may be posted or transmitted by facsimile to the State Courts.

#### Address

The Registrar  
State Courts  
1 Havelock Square  
Singapore 059724

#### Fax

+65 6435 5122

#### *Disclaimer:*

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## Criminal Justice Division



## What you need to know about Bail

- What is Bail?
- What type of security may be furnished?
- Who can be a Surety?
- How does a Surety bail an Accused Person?
- What if the Accused Person breaches the Bail?  
*and other information*

## What is Bail?

When a person is arrested and charged in Court, (**Accused Person**), the Court may grant Bail to the Accused Person. This means that if someone (**Surety**), is willing to provide security for the amount of money ordered by the Court for the Bail (**Bail Amount**), the Accused Person may be released from custody. Thereafter, the Surety has the obligation to ensure that the Accused Person attends Court as and when required (**Court Event**). If the Accused Person fails to attend Court, the Surety may lose the entire Bail Amount.

## What type of security may be furnished?

If the Bail Amount is S\$15,000 and below, the Surety may provide security by pledging his personal property. Such personal property may include jewellery or furniture, but they must be fully paid-up. The Surety is not required to physically present his or her personal property at the time of posting bail. He or she is only required to declare such personal property to the Courts.

If the Bail Amount is above S\$15,000, the Surety is required to provide security in the form of cash or cash equivalent. Cash may be paid to the Court by way of a cashier's order made out to the "**REGISTRAR, STATE COURTS**". For cash equivalent such as fixed deposits and savings accounts, the Surety will need to produce the updated bank books or original bank statements.

## Who can be a Surety?

Any Singapore citizen or permanent resident above the age of 21 may be a Surety provided he or she is not a bankrupt and not facing criminal charges.

However, the Court has final discretion on whether to allow a person to be a Surety. For instance, the Court may not allow a person to be a Surety if the Court does not believe that he or she can or will ensure that the Accused Person attends the Court Events.

## Besides the Bail Amount, can the Court impose other conditions?

The Court may impose other conditions aside from the Bail Amount. One common condition is that the Accused Person may not leave Singapore without the Court's permission.\* Other conditions may include the following:

- Accused Person to surrender his or her passport to the Investigation Officer;
- Accused Person not to contact the victim directly or indirectly;
- Accused Person to attend treatment (pending the outcome of the case).

Where the Accused Person is a young offender (below 21 years old), the Court may impose the following conditions:

- Only the parent or guardian of the Accused Person may be permitted to be the Surety;
- Time curfew for the Accused Person to remain indoors;
- Accused Person is to attend school regularly.

\* *To apply for permission, the Accused Person is required to write to the Court (where the next Court Event is scheduled to take place) with details of the next Court Event, the destination, duration of the trip and purpose of the trip.*

## How does a Surety bail an Accused Person?

When the Court grants bail to an Accused Person, the Accused Person is usually allowed one phone call to inform his or her family member or friend of the Bail Amount and other conditions.



A person who is willing to act as a Surety for the Accused Person will have to attend at the Bail Centre located within the Crime Registry at the ground floor of the State Courts. The staff at the Bail Centre will ensure that all the conditions of the Bail can be complied with and that the Surety (or Sureties, as the case may be) is briefed on his or her obligations as a Surety. The staff at the Bail Centre will also ascertain that the Surety is aware of the details of the Accused Person's next Court Event. After the Surety has furnished the security for the Bail, he or she will be brought before a Magistrate to acknowledge the terms and conditions of the Bail. At this point in time, the Magistrate may reject the Surety if the Magistrate finds that he or she is not suitable to be a Surety for the Accused Person.

If the Magistrate approves of the Surety after being satisfied that he or she is suitable and that all the conditions of the Bail are met, arrangements will be made for the Accused Person to be released.

## What if the Accused Person breaches the Bail?

While an Accused Person is out on Bail and he or she does not attend Court as required, a warrant of arrest will be issued against him. The entire Bail Amount which the Surety provided for the Bail may be forfeited by the Court except that, before the forfeiture, the Court will fix a date for the Surety to attend Court and explain why he or she failed to ensure that the Accused Person attend Court as required. In the absence of any compelling reason, the Court will order the forfeiture of the entire Bail Amount.