



375 S. High Street

Columbus Ohio, 43215-4520

FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

BOND INFORMATION

A bond is the insurance policy courts use to guarantee that a defendant appears in court. Bond can take several forms, including these:

TYPES OF BOND:

- **SURETY**
 - The defendant pays a ten percent, nonrefundable fee to a bonding agent to secure the bond. The bonding agent pays the required state fees and insures the defendant appears for all of the court dates. If the defendant fails to appear to all of the court date, the bonding agent is liable for the entire bond amount.
- **CASH**
 - The defendant posts the entire bond amount plus the required state fees in cash. If the defendant appears for all of the court dates, the bond amount is returned, but not the required state fees. If the defendant fails to appear to all of the court dates, the entire amount is forfeited.
- **APPEARANCE**
 - The defendant, or someone acting on their behalf deposits ten percent of the bond amount and the required state fees directly to the court. If the defendant appears for all of the court dates, ninety percent of the amount deposited is returned, but not the required state fees. If the defendant fails to appear to all of the court dates, the depositer is liable for the entire amount, and may have additional penalties if that amount is not paid.
- **RECOGNIZANCE**
 - The defendant is released on their signature, stating they will appear for all of the court dates. If the defendant fails to appear for all of the court dates they may be charged with a separate criminal offense.

There is a standard bond schedule that permits Defendants in many cases to post a bond and secure their release from jail before their arraignment. This bond schedule appears below and applies to any Ohio resident and any case except the following:

1. Domestic violence, assault, aggravated trespassing, aggravated menacing, menacing by stalking
2. A violation of a domestic violence or anti-stalking temporary protection order
3. The following offenses if the alleged victim of the violation was a family or household member at the time of the commission of the offenses: criminal damaging or endangering, criminal mischief, and any other "offense of violence: as defined in R.C. 2901.01
4. Any sexually oriented offense
5. A violation of R.C. 4511.19(A) as penalized in R.C. 4511.19(G)(1)(c) or (G)(1)(d) or substantially similar municipal ordinance for which the penalties are substantially similar or a violation of Columbus City Code Section 2133.01(a) or (b) as penalized in Columbus City Code Section 2133.99 (G)(1)(c) or (G)(1)(d).

Standard Bond for Ohio Residents

Classification or Offense	Bail Amount	Bail Type
Unclassified misdemeanor	\$ 500	Cash, Surety or Appearance
Misdemeanor of the first degree	\$ 500	Cash, Surety or Appearance
Misdemeanor of the second degree	\$ 400	Cash, Surety or Appearance
Misdemeanor of the third degree	\$ 300	Cash, Surety or Appearance
Misdemeanor of the fourth degree	\$ 200	Cash, Surety or Appearance
Minor Misdemeanor	\$ 100	Cash, Surety or Appearance

** These bond amounts shall be used by the Clerk unless a judge sets the amount of bond.

Standard Bond for Non-Residents

Classification or Offense	Bail Amount	Bail Type
Unclassified misdemeanor	\$ 2,000	Cash or Surety
Misdemeanor of the first degree	\$ 2,000	Cash or Surety
Misdemeanor of the second degree	\$ 1,500	Cash or Surety
Misdemeanor of the third degree	\$ 1,000	Cash or Surety
Misdemeanor of the fourth degree	\$ 500	Cash or Surety
Minor Misdemeanor	\$ 100	Cash or Surety

** If the non-resident defendant can establish to the satisfaction of the Clerk of Courts that the defendant is a student or is gainfully employed in this State, the defendant shall be released on the same bail as residents of this State.