

BAIL VS. BOND: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Bail and bond are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same.



Both exist to secure a defendant's temporary release from jail while they await trial.

Bail



A sum of money or property paid directly to the court.

How It Works

- 1 Defendant (or family) pays the full bail amount to the court
- 2 Court holds it as a guarantee of court appearances
- 3 If all court dates are met → money is refunded
- 4 If not → money is forfeited

Pros

- ✓ Fully refundable
- ✓ No middleman or extra fees

Cons

- ! Requires large upfront payment
- ! Not affordable for many

Summary

- ! Direct payment to the court. Refundable.

Bond



A surety bond is a contract between the defendant, a bail bonds company, and the court.

How It Works

- 1 Defendant pays a non-refundable fee (usually 10%) to a bondsman
- 2 Bondsman posts the full bail amount to the court
- 3 Bondsman ensures defendant appears in court
- 4 Fee is non-refundable

Pros

- ✓ Much more affordable upfront
- ✓ Allows release for those who cannot afford full bail

Cons

- ! Fee is non-refundable
- ! The defendant is subject to the bondsman's oversight

Summary

- ! Payment of a fee to a bail bondsman, who then pays the court. Fee is non-refundable.

Need help with bail in California?
The Bail Boys are here 24/7 for immediate support!
Call us at (866) 649-6559.

