

## Bail Bond Education



**Ronnie Minnick**  
**Professional Bail Bond**  
**Education**  
**1999 - Present**



## History of Bail

For centuries, bail in America followed **English common law** traditions. Our system of bail started in England in 1677 when there were no jails, no money to build jails (sound familiar) and the practice at the time was to release a prisoner into the custody of some reputable individual who would vouch for the defendant to appear in court on a certain date. And soon the **reputable individual** learned he could collect a fee for this assurance, **10%** (same as it is today). In the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century that reputable person became a person or company licensed and regulated by the state wherein he or she operates. For well over **300 years**, the American commercial bail system has served the criminal justice system well. Releasing a person in custody by the sheriff to a **licensed bail bondsman** 1) Eliminates the approximate **\$50 @ day costs** from the County to house the prisoner; 2) Reduces the **jail population**; 3) Assures the defendant **will appear for his scheduled court date** to answer for his criminal conduct. If the defendant fails to show up for court, the **bail bond licensee has to pay the amount of the bail bond to the court**, so there is an incentive to have the defendant in court; 4) The released prisoner is **supervised while awaiting trial**, has to weekly report in to the bondsman as to his whereabouts, employment, etc. **All at no tax payer expense.** "If it ain't broke, don't try and fix it"

In the 1960s a first wave of **bail reform** arrived. Federal policymakers, legal scholars, and judges (called the **liberal crowd**) worried that people accused of minor crimes were lingering in **jail solely because they could not pay** the bail premium, that the current money bail system unfairly **penalized the poor**; and clogged local jails. Only the rich could get out of jail. The liberal crowd believed that **Federal and State governments need to have a active responsibility** to insure equal civil rights; that there should be a government-controlled pretrial **release system based on risk assessment tools**, court supervision, and expanded court monitoring programs...(all at increased tax payer costs); and **less reliance on the private-sector, i.e the money bail system.**

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Liberal activist even pushed the **United States Supreme Court** to declare the **cash bail system unconstitutional** as it created a system of “wealth-based discrimination” “Only the rich can get out of jail, the poor stay in jail”. In 2019, The United States Supreme Court upheld a decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruling that **monetary bail** and the use of monetary bail schedules meets **constitutional muster**

**New Jersey, New York, California, Illinois**, replacing most cash bail with pretrial services system that resulted being **“soft on crime”**. Major funders, particularly Arnold Ventures, poured money into research. The intent, at least publicly, was to modernize and make pretrial justice fairer. **The liberal left** (as we know it today) believed that instead of punishment for criminal conduct, **rehabilitation** was the better remedy. Kamala Harris, while the California AG, implanted what was know as Prop 47 which eliminated the ability of police and prosecutors to arrest and punish criminals for certain crimes, particularly if the value was \$950 or under. (Ok to steel just what the value of what you steel). As a **Circuit Court Judge** told the Washington County Corum Court (when the Sheriff was seeking 38 million dollars to expand the Washington County Jail and had 75 prisoners a nite sleeping on the floor) “the **jail population is full of good people**, our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, who have caught a bit of bad luck, turn them free, they will come back to court, no need for 37 million dollars”. So they turned them loose, and they fled, did not come back to court. Who’s surprised ? **“Defunding the Police”** ?? Who invented that ? New York and California, Surprise !

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The results (however well intended) have produced **serious side effects**.

Defendants released without any requirement to post cash bail, obtain a surety cash bond or other forms of financial security to insure future court appearance left the **government with the increasing task and responsibility for monitoring compliance**, managing risk, and addressing failures to appear.

**Failure to appear rates increased dramatically**. When a person got rearrested, they would simply get re-released. There was no fear of the justice system. The same defendants were getting rearrested over and over. Failure to appear in court also harms victims remaining in limbo until the defendant can be relocated and returned to court for adequate justice. In this context, who goes looking for the absconding defendant? With bail reform, the **government** has the responsibility; but local law enforcement does not have the resources and manpower to actively pursue absconding court defendants and are given a low priority. Counties are faced with a massive stock of unserved FTA arrest warrants.

**The crime rate increased dramatically**. Defendants who fail to appear are four (4) times higher to commit additional crimes! Catch and release bail reform putting unsupervised criminals back on the streets within hours of arrest (with government supervision-no supervision) is reckless and an inherently dangerous proposition; Today's criminal has **no fear or respect of and for the judicial system**. The liberal idea of rehabilitation vs punishment is not working.

Law-abiding citizens expect laws to be enforced that will keep them safe and free of crime infested areas. When residents and shopkeepers see repeat offending crime unchecked, confidence and safety concerns erodes and property markets can stagnate or decline. Today, New Jersey, New York, California, Illinois lead the nation in **population and business declines**.

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## The Professional Bail Bondsman

The story of bail reform began with a genuine desire to remedy unfair detention and grew into a nationwide experiment often driven by large philanthropic players and political policy makers. Bail reform is not new, comes around about every **25-30 years** because the current liberal crowd was not around 30 years ago to see the disaster, i.e the increase in crime and safety concerns for the population and business relocations, all at the taxpayer expense.

The sole purpose of bail being the **“appearance in court”** for the individual to answer for his/her conduct and to achieve justice for the victims of crime. The failure to appear rates (FTA) associated with the bail reform “Soft on Crime / Catch & Release” is as high as seventy five (75%). Missing a court date is pricey for everyone devouring county fiscal resources. Defendants who fail to appear impose significant costs on the judicial system, rearranging and rescheduling court dates, wasted time of judges and prosecutors, and on the general public in the form of wasted tax dollars and creating a public safety issue! County residents don’t ask much of their county governments, keep roads smooth, law enforcement help if needed, put law-breakers in jail, maintain community safety and for most part residents will be satisfied.

The **government supervised bail reform** and their ill advised risk assessment system normally last **five (5) – seven (7) years** until the voting public comes to their senses and hold officials accountable for the problems; and with it a return to the traditional **American commercial bail system (the private sector)** which has served the criminal justice system well for over 300 years and assures court appearance and protects public safety.

**The commercial cash bail system is the solution, not the problem. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it !**

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