

SHORT TITLE: Bail bondsmen; modifying and adding procedures and conditions for vacating forfeiture of bond and providing for exoneration of bond; effective date.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 577

By: Smith

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to bail bondsmen; amending 59 O.S.

1991, Section 1332, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 331, O.S.L. 1994 (59 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1332), which relates to forfeiture of bonds; modifying and adding procedures and conditions for vacating forfeiture of bond and providing for exoneration of bond; modifying gender references; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 1991, Section 1332, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 331, O.S.L. 1994 (59 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1332), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1332. A. If there is a breach of ~~the~~ an undertaking, the court before which the cause is pending shall declare the undertaking and any money, property or securities that have been deposited as bail, forfeited. In the event of the forfeiture of a bail bond the clerk of the trial court shall, within thirty (30) days after the forfeiture, by mail with return receipt requested, mail a true and correct copy of the order and judgment or forfeiture to the bondsman, and if applicable, the insurer, whose risk it is, and keep at least one copy of the order and judgment of forfeiture on file.

B. The order and judgment of forfeiture shall be on forms prescribed by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

C. 1. The bail bondsman shall have ninety (90) days from receipt of the order and judgment of forfeiture from the court clerk or mailing of the notice if no receipt is made, to return the defendant to custody.

2. When the court indicates that the defendant is returned to custody within the ninety-day period, the court clerk shall enter a minute vacating the forfeiture shall be vacated by an order of the court before which the cause is pending and exonerating the bond. If the defendant has been timely returned to custody, but such is not reflected by the court record, the court shall vacate the forfeiture and exonerate the bond.

3. For the purposes of this section, return to custody shall mean:

- a. the return of the defendant to the appropriate Oklahoma law enforcement agency by the bondsman,
- b. an appearance of the defendant in open court in the court where ~~he was~~ charged,
- c. arrest or incarceration within ~~Oklahoma~~ this state of the defendant by law enforcement personnel, or
- d. arrest or incarceration of the defendant in any other jurisdiction, provided the bondsman has requested that a hold be placed on the defendant in the jurisdiction wherein the forfeiture lies, and has guaranteed reasonable travel expenses for the return of the defendant.

4. In addition to the provisions set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this subsection, the court shall vacate the forfeiture and exonerate the bond in any felony case wherein:

- a. the bondsman has requested in writing of a sheriff's department that the defendant be entered into the

computerized records of the National Crime Information Center, and

- b. the request has not been honored within five (5) business days of the receipt of the written request by the department.

5. The court may, in its discretion, vacate the order of forfeiture and exonerate the bond where good cause has been shown for:

- a. the defendant's failure to appear, or
- b. the bondsman's failure to return the defendant to custody within the required ninety (90) days.

D. 1. If, within ninety (90) days from receipt of the order and judgment of forfeiture from the court clerk, or mailing of the notice if no receipt is made:

- a. the defendant is not returned to custody, or
- b. the forfeiture has not been stayed,

the bondsman and if applicable, the insurer, whose risk it is, shall deposit cash or other valuable securities in the face amount of the bond with the court clerk ninety-one (91) days from receipt of the order and judgment of forfeiture from the court clerk, or mailing of the notice if no receipt is made. Provided, this provision shall not apply if the defendant has been returned to custody within said ninety-day period and the court has failed to vacate the forfeiture pursuant to paragraph 2 or 4 of subsection C of this section.

2. After the order and judgment has been paid, the bondsman and if applicable, the insurer, whose risk it is, may file a motion for remitter within one hundred eighty (180) days from receipt of the order and judgment of forfeiture, or mailing of the notice if no receipt is made, and upon the event the defendant is returned to custody within ninety (90) days after payment is due, and all expenses for the defendant's return have been paid by the bondsman, the bondsman's property shall be returned.

3. If the additional cash or securities are not deposited with the court clerk on or before the ninety-first day from the date of service of the order and judgment of forfeiture from the court clerk, or mailing of the notice if no receipt is made, then the court clerk shall notify the Insurance Commissioner by sending a certified copy of the order and judgment of forfeiture and proof that the bondsman and, if applicable, the insurer have been notified by mail with return receipt requested.

4. The Insurance Commissioner shall:

- a. in the case of a surety bondsman, immediately cancel the license privilege and authorization of the insurer to do business within the State of Oklahoma and cancel the appointment of all surety bondsman agents of the insurer who are licensed by Section 1301 et seq. of this title, and
- b. in the case of a professional bondsman, withdraw the face amount of the said forfeiture from the deposit provided in Section 1306 of this title. The Commissioner shall then immediately direct the professional bondsman, by mail with return receipt requested, to make additional deposits to bring the original deposit to the required level. Should the professional bondsman, after being notified, fail to make an additional deposit within ten (10) days from the receipt of notice, or mailing of notice if no receipt is made, ~~his~~ the license shall be revoked and all sums presently on deposit shall be held by the Commissioner to secure the face amounts of bonds outstanding. Upon release of ~~said~~ the bonds, any amount of deposit in excess of ~~said~~ the bonds shall be returned to the bondsman. Provided, the bail bondsman shall have had ~~such~~ notice as required by the court,

at the place of ~~his~~ the bondsman's business, of the trial or hearing of the defendant named in the bond. The notice shall have been at least ten (10) days before the required appearance of the defendant, unless the appearance is scheduled at the time of execution of the bond. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the bondsman shall be deemed to have had notice of the trial or hearing if the defendant named in the bond shall have been recognized back in open court to appear at a date certain for such trial or hearing.

5. If the actions of any bail bondsman force the Insurance Commissioner to withdraw monies, deposited pursuant to Section 1306 of this title, to pay past due executions more than two (2) times in a consecutive twelve-month period, then the license of ~~such~~ the professional bondsman shall, in addition to other penalties, be suspended automatically for one (1) year or until a deposit equal to all outstanding forfeitures due is made. ~~Such~~ The deposit shall be maintained until the Commissioner deems it feasible to reduce the deposit. In no case shall ~~such~~ an increased deposit exceed two (2) years unless there is a recurrence of withdrawals as stated herein.

E. 1. If the defendant's failure to appear was the result of being in the custody of a court other than the court in which ~~his~~ the appearance was scheduled, forfeiture shall not lie. Upon proof to the court that the bondsman paid the order and judgment of forfeiture without knowledge that the defendant was in custody of another court on the day the defendant was due to appear, and all expenses for the defendant's return have been paid by the bondsman, the bondsman's property shall be returned.

2. Where the defendant is in the custody of another court, the district attorney or municipal attorney shall direct a hold order to the official, judge, court or law enforcement agent wherein the defendant is in custody. Providing, that all expenses accrued as a

result of returning the custody of the defendant shall be borne by the bondsman.

F. The district attorney or municipal attorney shall not receive any fees, bonuses or other monies or property for or by reason of ~~his~~ services or actions in connection with or collection of bond forfeitures under the provisions of Section 1301 et seq. of this title.

G. The above procedures shall be subject to the bondsman's rights of appeal. The bondsman or insurer may appeal an order and judgment of forfeiture pursuant to the procedures for appeal set forth in Section 951 et seq. of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes. To stay the execution of the order and judgment of forfeiture, the bondsman or insurer shall comply with the provisions set forth in Section 968.1 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

H. For municipal courts of record, the above procedures are criminal in nature and ancillary to the criminal procedures before the trial court and shall be subject to the bondsman's right of appeal. The bondsman or insurer may appeal an order and judgment of forfeiture by the municipal courts of record to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1995.

45-1-0163

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