ALL ABOUT BONDS

Q. WHAT IS A BOND?

A bond is not a fine. It is a guarantee to the government that, if you are let out of detention, you will go to all of your hearings and will obey the judge's order at the end of the case. If you go to all your immigration hearings or interviews, whoever paid your bond will get the money back when your case is over. If you lose your case, you must report to DHS or you will not get the bond money back.

Q. ICE SET A BOND AMOUNT THAT IS TOO HIGH FOR ME TO PAY (OR ICE DID NOT SET A BOND AMOUNT IN MY CASE). CAN I GET THE AMOUNT LOWERED?

You can ask the Immigration Judge to lower your bond by requesting a bond hearing. However, the Immigration Judge does not have the power to lower everyone's bond amount. Also, the Immigration Judge has the power to *raise* the amount or take the existing bond away.

Q. CAN THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE CHANGE MY BOND?

Yes, UNLESS you are being charged as an arriving alien, or you were charged by ICE because you were convicted of certain types of crimes (including "aggravated felonies").



Q. I ALREADY HAD A BOND HEARING BUT THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE GAVE ME A BOND AMOUNT THAT WAS STILL TOO HIGH. CAN I ASK FOR ANOTHER HEARING?

No, unless your situation has fundamentally changed.

Q. HOW DO I REQUEST A BOND HEARING?

You can either ask the Immigration Judge for one in person at your first master calendar hearing, or you can fill out the **Motion Requesting Hearing for Bond Determination** and mail to the court: Tacoma Immigration Court, 1623 East J Street, Suite 3, Tacoma, WA 98421. You should also mail a copy to the Office of the Chief Counsel, 1623 East J Street, Suite 2, Tacoma, WA 98421.

Q. I AM REPRESENTING MYSELF. HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY BOND HEARING?

- 1) Gather documents that support your bond request.
- 2) Ask your family and friends to attend your hearing.
- 3) Practice answering the questions the judge might ask you by filling out the worksheet "Preparing for Your Bond Hearing".

Q. DO I HAVE TO PAY MY ENTIRE BOND AMOUNT TO GET RELEASED?

Yes.

Q. ARE THERE BOND AGENCIES THAT CAN HELP ME PAY MY BOND AMOUNT?

Yes. Refer to the **Bond Agencies** list. Note that immigration bonds and criminal bonds are not the same.

Q. MY FAMILY WANTS TO POST BOND FOR ME. HOW DO THEY DO IT?

The person supplying the bond money must show proof of identity. This person (the obligor) is responsible for ensuring that you present yourself before an officer or agent of ICE whenever a request is made.

All bonds can be posted from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at either of the following locations:

Detention and Removal Operations Detention and Removal Operations

Northwest Detention Center 4th Floor

1623 East J Street, Suite 2 12500 Tukwila International Boulevard

Tacoma, Washington 98421-1615 Seattle, Washington 98168

(253) 779-6000 (206) 835-0650 (253) 779-6096 Fax (206) 835-0088 Fax

NO CASH IS ACCEPTED. Only cashier's checks or Post Office money orders made payable to the **United States Department of Homeland Security**.

Q. THE PERSON WHO IS PAYING MY BOND DOES NOT LIVE IN THIS AREA. CAN THEY POST THE BOND IN ANOTHER CITY OR STATE?

Yes. The person needs to contact the local ICE field office. A list of field offices can be found at http://www.ice.gov/contact/ero/.

Tacoma, WA: (253) 779-6000 x14 Tukwila, WA: (206) 835-0650 Portland, OR: (503) 326-4165

4310 SW Macadam Ave.

Portland, OR 97239

Bond help desk: (866) 233-1915

Q. HOW SOON AFTER BOND IS POSTED WILL I BE RELEASED?

Typically, people are released around 6:00 p.m. on the day bond is posted.

Q. I DON'T HAVE A RIDE TO THE TRAIN STATION / AIRPORT. CAN I GET ONE?

After you go through "intake" at the detention center, ask an ICE or GEO employee if you can get a ride.

STEPS FOR REDUCING YOUR BOND

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A BOND, YOU MUST SHOW:

- You are not dangerous to people or property
- You will attend all your future court hearings

ASK FOR A BOND HEARING

You may request a bond hearing in one of two ways:

- In writing. Send a written request to the immigration court saying you would like a bond hearing, with the "Motion to Request Custody Determination", to:
 - o The Immigration Court at 1623 East J Street, Suite 3, Tacoma, WA, 98421, AND
 - o ICE at 1623 East J Street, Suite 2, Tacoma, WA, 98421; OR
- **In person.** Ask the judge at your first hearing for a bond hearing.

CALL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, EMPLOYERS, AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ASK THEM TO WRITE LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR YOU AND HELP YOU COLLECT EVIDENCE.

Suggestions for the letters of support:

- 1. Must be written in English (or translated into English)
- 2. Should begin with "Dear Honorable Immigration Judge"
- 3. Must state your full name and A number
- 4. Should include the writer's address and immigration status
- 5. If necessary, should explain that the writer can help you with housing & food
- 6. Should explain why you are a good person and why you can be trusted to come to immigration court in the future

Examples of evidence:

- 1. Evidence that your family members are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents
- 2. Marriage certificates (if your husband/wife has immigration status in the U.S.)
- 3. Check stubs
- 4. Proof that you pay your taxes

- 5. Certificates of completing classes
- 6. Any other proof that shows you have connections to the U.S.

Your family or friends should mail the letters and evidence directly to you.

PRACTICE ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS THE JUDGE WILL ASK

Go through the questions on the Bond Worksheet – these are the questions that the judge will be asking you at your bond hearing, so be prepared to answer them.

PRESENT YOUR EVIDENCE

The day of your bond hearing have *three copies* of your letter(s) of support and any other evidence. People may also come to immigration court to testify for you, or they may testify by telephone. Make sure that everyone has legal status in the U.S.

PREPARING FOR YOUR BOND HEARING

PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WHAT WILL THE JUDGE ASK ME AT THE BOND HEARING?

Below are some questions the judge might ask you. Your bond hearing will be very short, so it will be very important for you to answer these questions before you go to court so you are prepared. You should bring this worksheet to court with you to make sure you don't forget what you want to say. Remember that most people only get ONE bond hearing, so **be prepared**!

- Do you have any family in the United States who are lawful permanent residents or United States citizens? List all close family members.
- Do any of your family members depend on you or have medical or other problems?
- Where do you live? How long have you lived there?
- Do you own property in the United States?
- When did you first enter the United States?
- Have you worked in the United States? What kind of work?
- Did you attend school in the United States? How far did you get in school?
- Are you afraid to return to your country? Why?
- Have any visa petitions been filed for you?
- Where would you live if you were released? (Be prepared to answer even if you have a no-contact order that keeps you from going home.)
- Where would you work if you were released?

- Is there anything else you wish to say to support your bond request?
 - ✓ Tell the judge about any rehabilitation you did for any criminal convictions, such as alcohol and drug classes, or domestic violence classes. People with convictions are less likely to receive a low bond.
 - ✓ Tell the judge what forms of relief you are applying for. People who are not applying for any relief are likely to get a high bond or no bond.
 - ✓ Tell the judge about anything that you think helps you even if she hasn't asked.

WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I BRING TO THE BOND HEARING?

The judge will ask you if you have any documents to give her to support your bond request. These are some examples of documents that could help you:

- 1) Letters of support from family and friends.
- 2) Copies of your family's documents showing they are legal permanent residents or citizens.
- 3) Certificates of birth or marriage.
- 4) Pay stubs showing that you have been working.
- 5) Proof that you pay your taxes.
- 6) Certificates of any classes you completed.
- 7) Any other proof that you have connections to the United States.
- 8) Evidence that you own property in the United States.

You should have your family send these to you directly. Make copies of them at the law library and bring them to your bond hearing.

BOND AGENCIES / AGENCIAS DE FIANZA

Immigration Bonds typically cost between 15-20% of the bond, depending on: the collateral used to guarantee the bond; its location; value; etc. Generally, collateral such as real estate, credit cards, stocks and bonds, and partial cash can be used to guarantee an Immigration Bond.

Las fianzas de inmigración típicamente cuestan entre el 15 y el 20% de la fianza, dependiendo de: la garantía utilizada para garantizar la fianza, su ubicación, su valor, etc. Generalmente, se puede garantizar la fianza de inmigración con los siguientes tipos de prendas: las propiedades inmobiliarias, las tarjetas de crédito, acciones y bonos, y pago parcial en efectivo.

Gonzales & Gonzales

1-800-628-8888

www.gandgbonds.com 412 E. Commercial Street Los Angeles, California 90012

US Immigration Bonds

1-800-225-2587

www.usimmigrationbonds.com 114 SW 10th Street, Suite C, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315

Berlin Bail Bonds

1-973-642-5523

berlinbailbonds@aol.com 972 Broad St Newark, NJ 07102

Freedom Federal Bonding Agency

1-832-831-5252

www.freedomfederalbondingagency.com 6309 Skyline Drive Houston, TX 77057

Martell Bail Bonds

1-888-865-Bail (2245)

www.martellbailbonds.com 18 Church Street 2nd Floor Paterson, NJ 07505

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE **EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW IMMIGRATION COURT** 1623 EAST J STREET, SUITE 3 **TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98421**

In the Matter of	A (write your A number here)
(print your name here)	IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS
Respondent.	DETAINED
MOTION REQUESTING HEARING	G FOR BOND REDETERMINATION
Respondent, through this motion, req	uests a redetermination of the conditions of
detention release pending determination of rem	ovability, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19 and 8
C.F.R. § 1236.1(d).	
Respectfully submitted on:	: Date
	Signature Respondent, <i>pro se</i>
(print your name here) Office of the Chiese Immigration and Company o	Customs Enforcement
1623 East J Street, Tacoma, WA 9842	
Signature	Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW IMMIGRATION COURT 1623 EAST J STREET, SUITE 3 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98421

In the Matter of	(write your A number here)			
(print your name here)	IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS DETAINED			
Respondent.				
MOTION REQUESTING HEARING	FOR BOND REDETERMINATION			
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	Signature Respondent, <i>pro se</i>			
(print your name here) Office of the Chief	ustoms Enforcement Suite 2			

Date

Signature