



UNDERSTANDING BAIL

SG
Courts

STATE
COURTS
SINGAPORE

What is Court Bail?

When an accused person is arrested, he is usually held in custody until dealt with by a court.

However, an arrested person may be released from custody if a sum of money, known as bail, is provided to guarantee that the arrested person will turn up in court.

Who is a bailor?

The person who posts bail is called a **bailor** (also known as a **surety**).

The bailor agrees to provide security for the bail amount ordered by the court.





Who can be a bailor?

- A Singapore Citizen or permanent resident (unless the Court specifies otherwise)
- 21 years and above.
- Not a bankrupt.
- Not facing criminal charges.

Even if the above conditions are met, the court decides on the bail conditions and makes the final decision on who can be a bailor.

Duties and responsibilities of a bailor

The bailor has to ensure that the accused person attends court and complies with all bail conditions. **This is a very serious responsibility.**

If the accused person fails to attend court, the bailor will be asked to attend court to explain.

The bailor **may end up losing all the money or personal belongings deposited as security.**

What can be pledged as security for bail?

Monetary Bail

The court may order the bailor to provide security in the form of cash or cash equivalents:

- Cash may be paid to the court (up to \$50,000).
- PayNow or Nets using bailor's ibanking mobile application.
- A cashier's order made payable to the "Registrar, State Courts".

When the case is concluded or when the bailor is discharged and bail is not forfeited by the court, the bailor will get a bail refund within **21 working days**.

Non-Monetary Bail

The court may order the bailor to provide security by pledging personal property and showing evidence of the value. The personal property must belong to the bailor and must be fully paid up.

Examples include:

- Jewellery
- Watches
- Furniture
- Electrical equipment
- Other household items

How to post bail?

Step 1

The bailor must bring the following documents and file an application to be a bailor at the **Bail Centre (Level 4) at the State Courts** during registration hours.

- Bailor's NRIC or Passport.
- The Accused Person's Passport.
- Supporting documents.

The last registration is at:

AM Session

- 12.30 pm from Monday to Friday

PM Session

- 5 pm from Monday to Thursday
- 4.30 pm on Friday

Step 2

An officer at the Bail Centre will:

- interview the potential bailor to ensure that he meets the bail conditions;
- brief the potential bailor on the duties of a bailor; and
- check the supporting documents.

Step 3

A Magistrate will then assess the bailor's suitability to stand as bailor for the accused person.

- If the Bail Application is Approved:

The accused person will be released from custody.

- If the Bail Application is Rejected:

The accused person will remain in custody until a suitable bailor is found.

Supporting Documents

Monetary Bail

Savings Account

- The original bank book or balance enquiry slip or bank e-statement.
- Bailor must be the account holder.
- The sum must not have been used as a form of security.
- There should be no GIRO arrangement;
- The account should be updated to the date of standing bail.

The bail sum will be “frozen” by the bank until the case is concluded.

Fixed/Time Deposit

- The bailor must be the account holder.
- The account must be valid for 6 months from the date of standing bail.
- The account must not have already been used as a form of security.
- The original deposit slip must be produced at the Bail Centre.

Joint Fixed or Savings Accounts cannot be used unless the court allows 2 bailors to stand bail. If the court allows 2 bailors to stand bail, then both account holders must be present at the Bail Centre to sign the bail bond.

Non-Monetary Bail

The bailor need not surrender the property but will have to declare to the Court that the personal property satisfies the bail amount.

For more information regarding the bail process, please access the link below or scan the QR code:

<https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/criminal/post-bail>



If you need to speak to someone,
please call us at 1800-JUSTICE.