



## ► **Bail Bondsmen – Temporary Licensing** ◀ **April 25, 2022**

- Pursuant to W.Va. Code §51-10-8(j), after July 1, 2022, a person shall not, either as principal, or as agent, clerk, or representative of an agent, engage in the bonding business unless licensed by the OIC. The law also required the OIC to promulgate a rule to set forth the licensure qualifications and the terms and conditions upon which a bonding business may be conducted.
- An individual may apply to become licensed as a bail bondsman by fully completing the electronic application, which will be linked from the OIC's website at [www.wvinsurance.gov](http://www.wvinsurance.gov), and meeting the licensure qualifications and the terms and conditions as set forth in the OIC's rule regarding bail bondsmen (114 CSR 103), which was approved by the Legislature during the 2022 legislative session. You may find the rule at the following link: [114 CSR 103](#). The OIC intends to file the rule with the Secretary of State on July 1, 2022, with an effective date on July 1, 2022.
- To provide a more seamless transition to the new licensing scheme, the OIC will issue temporary licenses to bail bondsmen who are currently approved to operate in this state. The OIC expects that the temporary licenses will have an effective date of July 1, 2022, and will be good through September 30, 2022, by which time the bail bondsmen should have had sufficient time to complete the new licensure process with the OIC. A temporary license may be extended for an additional three (3) months, through December 31, 2022, for good cause shown.
- To be immediately eligible for a temporary license, a bail bondsman must contact the OIC to request a temporary license and submit proof or supporting documentation that he or she is currently approved to operate as a bail bondsman in this state. Proof may be in the form of a court order, circuit clerk's letter, or, for surety bondsmen, an insurance producer license with a property and casualty line of authority. These are examples and other supporting documents may be acceptable. However, each request for a temporary license will be reviewed by the OIC on a case-by-case basis. Proof of current licensure should be submitted as soon as possible to the OIC at [OICBailBondsmen@wv.gov](mailto:OICBailBondsmen@wv.gov).
- A bail bondsmen must also include his or her full legal name, resident address, business address, mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number when providing proof of current approval to operate as a bail bondsmen and requesting a temporary license.
- The application fee for a two (2) year bail bondsmen license is \$200.00 and is nonrefundable. However, bail bondsmen will not be required to pay the fee to receive a temporary license. The application fee must be paid upon application for a permanent license and for all renewal applications.
- A temporary license issued by the OIC to a bail bondsman authorizes the licensee to act in that capacity until the license is expired, suspended or revoked. The license issued by the OIC will be a statewide license. However, a bail bondsman may denote specific counties in which he or she is available to offer services to the OIC during the application process, or at any time thereafter. If a bail bondsman

chooses to denote specific counties, the OIC will include that information on the list of licensed bail bondsmen that is provided to detention facilities.

- It is incumbent upon a bail bondsman to be sufficiently familiar with all the provisions of W. Va. Code §51-10-1 *et seq.* and 114 CSR 103.
- Questions pertaining to OIC's licensure or regulation of bail bondsmen may be directed to: [OICBailBondsmen@wv.gov](mailto:OICBailBondsmen@wv.gov). You may also contact the OIC at this email address to provide the OIC with updated contact information, including your name, address, telephone number and email address. The OIC will then add your information to its internal contact list so that you will receive updates and communications regarding the licensure and regulation of bail bondsmen.

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