



# HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPERATIONS POLICY

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Sheriff

## Bail Bondsmen/Bounty Hunters

<b>Distribution:</b>	<b>All Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Index:</b>	<b>OPS 1708</b>
<b>Responsible Unit:</b>	<b>Police Operations Bureau</b>	<b>Rescinds:</b>	<b>MAN 3500</b>
<b>DLI Program:</b>		<b>MD Code:</b>	

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### 1. Purpose

To provide guidelines to deputies when responding to calls for service regarding Bail Bondsmen/Bounty Hunters pursuant to the powers of arrest granted as a matter of common law.

### 2. Policy

Deputies will safeguard the peace during calls involving Bail Bondsmen/Bounty Hunters but will not become actively engaged in apprehension efforts.

### 3. Definitions

**BAIL BOND:** a written obligation of a defendant, with or without a surety or collateral security, conditioned on the appearance of the defendant as required and providing for payment of a penalty sum according to its terms.

**BAIL BONDSMAN:** an authorized agent of a surety insurer. The Bail Bondsman must:

- Be duly licensed in the jurisdiction in which the charges are pending, if that jurisdiction licenses Bail Bondsmen;
- Be authorized to engage the surety insurer as surety on the bail bond pursuant to a valid general or special power of attorney; and
- Hold a valid license as an insurance broker or agent in Maryland, and that the surety insurer is authorized by the Insurance Commissioner of Maryland to write bail bonds in the state.

**BOUNTY HUNTER:** Bounty Hunters may be authorized to pursue a fugitive and that empowerment is generally received from the Bail Bondsman who put up the bond. Bounty Hunters may work in-house for a bail bonds agency or work as independent operators contracted by a Bail Bondsman. Although Bounty Hunters can operate in Maryland, no license is needed, and no laws are in place governing their activities.

**COLLATERAL SECURITY:** any property deposited, pledged, or encumbered to secure the performance of a bail bond.

**SURETY:** a person other than the defendant who, by executing a bail bond, guarantees the appearance of the defendant.

### 4. References

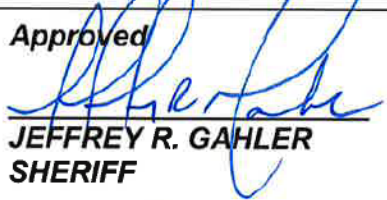
Maryland Rule 4-217

Maryland Rule 16-805  
Shifflett v. State, 80 Md. App. 151, 159 (1989)  
Frasher v. State, 8 Md. App. 439, 445 (1970)

## 5. Procedures

### A. Deputy Responsibilities

1. Notify a supervisor to respond to any call for service involving Bail Bondsmen/Bounty Hunters.
  - a. A supervisor will respond to the location of all calls involving Bail Bondsmen/Bounty Hunters
2. Verify the identification of the Bail Bondsman/Bounty Hunter.
  - a. Bail Bondsmen carry a current Bail Bondsman license.
  - b. Bounty Hunters carry a letter of authorization.
3. Verify the existence of a valid arrest warrant or Court Order of Forfeiture of the prisoner.
4. Verify the identity of the subject prior to his being taken into custody.
  - a. Allow the Bail Bondsman/Bounty Hunter to transport the prisoner if the only arrest warrant for the prisoner is the one the Bail Bondsman/Bounty Hunter is apprehending the prisoner for.
  - b. Take the prisoner into custody and transport to the Inter-Agency Processing Center (IPC) if more arrest warrants exist than the one the Bail Bondsman/Bounty Hunter is apprehending the prisoner for.
5. Limit himself to protecting life and property and not becoming involved in the physical arrest or forced entry into a dwelling or business unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Approved  
  
JEFFREY R. GAHLER  
SHERIFF  
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