

# The Power of Combining Bail Bonds with Supervised Release (SOR)

More Florida judges are combining bail bonds with SOR inmate releases and feeling more confident about releasing 'higher risk' inmates

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, January 16, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Power of Combining <u>Bail Bonds</u> with Supervised Release (<u>SOR</u>)

### What is a Bail Bond?

A bail bond is a type of surety bond available only through a state licensed bail bondsman that secures the release of an inmate from jail while he or she awaits their court hearing. Bail Bonds have proven to be the most effective way to ensure a defendant's appearance in court. Recent studies have shown an appearance rate of 98% or better in the state of Florida.

### What Does it Mean to Be Released on SOR?

Supervised Own Recognizance (aka: 'SOR' and 'Supervised Release') is a form of no-money inmate release used in Florida (and in many regions within the United States) where the defendant is granted release from jail until his or her court date on the condition that they agree to show up for their scheduled court date. In addition, the inmate is required to contact a supervised release agent (or someone assigned by the court system) regularly as specified on their release documents. This program allows the courts to maintain some authority over the defendants who have been released pre-trial.

## Other SOR Requirements

Supervised Release programs were originally put into place for non-violent arrestees without a criminal history. This type of release alone allows low-risk inmates to be released without having to pay money bail. However, in most cases, there are additional conditions the defendant must abide by in order to be released on SOR and remain that way until their court date. In many cases, the arrestee must abstain from drugs and alcohol. Drug testing may be conducted during required visits with the supervised release agent.

# Why SOR Alone is Not Enough

Supervised Release is a great way to supervise a defendant while awaiting trial, but does not guarantee the defendant's appearance in court as what a standard bail bond is intended to do. Some argue that SOR program conditions may infringe on citizens' constitutional rights as it is entering into a form of pre-trial probation. This area has yet to be explored.

### Using Bail Bonds with SOR

Recent studies have proven that combining <u>bail bonds with supervised release</u> increases the number of appearances in court, as well as lessens revictimization, which in turn translates to better public safety.

When a bail bond is added to an SOR inmate release program and if the defendant violates the

agreed conditions, the supervised release agent contacts the surety bondsman. As a consequence of the violated court order, the bondsman then revokes the bail bond, finds the offender and brings them back to the jurisdiction of the courts. This process saves tax payers money, lessens the burden on local law enforcement and creates safer communities.

Florida Judges Using SOR and Bail Bonds More Often

Jail inmates in the state of Florida are frequently seeing judges utilizing (what many are now referring to as) 'Supervised Release Bonds' (a combination of both forms of inmate release, bail bonds plus SOR) in their release from jail process. Judges are not only using this combination to ensure defendants' appearances in court, but with hopes to reduce the revictimization rate as well.

# Apply for A Bail Bond Online

If you or someone you care about has been arrested and is eligible for bail to be released, call or text a bail bond agent at Bail Bonds Now anytime, 24/7. Our bondsmen are licensed, experienced and standing by and ready to assist you. Apply for a bail bond online with our easy and convenient online bonding system from anywhere using a smartphone, tablet or any type of computer device. If you're paying for a bond with a debit or credit card, the entire bail bond process can be completed online.

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