



# **TOM GREEN COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD**

## **BAIL BOND RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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**Rule 5.4 (a) updated (b) added Rule 6.1 revised; Rule 6.7 revised.**

**Rule 7.1 revised and 7.4 added.**

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## **SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1** “Bail Bond” means a cash deposit, or similar deposit or written undertaking, or a bond or other security, given to guarantee the appearance of a defendant in a criminal case.
- 1.2** “Bail Bond Surety” or “Surety” means any person who for hire or for any compensation deposits any cash or bonds or other securities or executes as surety or co-surety any bond for other persons.
- 1.3** “Board” means the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board.
- 1.4** “Bonding Business” or “Bail Bond Business” means solicitation, negotiation or execution of a bail bond by a bail bond surety.
- 1.5** “Code” refers to Title 10, Chapter 1704 of Vernon’s Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated Occupations Code [§1704.001 *et seq.* Texas Occupations Code].
- 1.6** “Company” includes corporations and other business entities.
- 1.7** “License holder” means a person licensed as a surety by the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board.
- 1.8** “Person” means an individual or corporation.
- 1.9** “Rules” means the Rules and Regulations as adopted by the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board, as amended from time to time.
- 1.10** “Solicitation” means a direct or an indirect contact, conversation, contract, request, invitation or suggestion to any prisoner, while such prisoner is in official custody, official confinement or official processing, that such prisoner should use any particular bonding license holder. Solicitation includes the requesting, inviting, asking or suggestion that any other person solicit bail bond business from a prisoner in official custody, official confinement or official processing for a bonding license holder, whether or not it involves employment, payment, promise to pay, or any inducement of value whatsoever, to be provided by the bonding license holder or agent to such person. Each solicitation is a separate offense.

## **SECTION 2: THE BOARD**

### **2.1 Name.**

The name of the Board is the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board.

### **2.2 Address.**

The mailing address of the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board is: TOM GREEN COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD c/o Chair of the Board, 113 W Beauregard, San Angelo, Texas 76903.

### **2.3 Members of the Board. OC SEC 1704.053**

- a. The Board consists of:
  1. The Sheriff or a designee from the Sheriff's office who must be an administrator or a Deputy Sheriff with the rank of at least sergeant;
  2. A district judge of Tom Green County having jurisdiction over criminal matters and designated by the presiding judge of the administrative judicial district, or a designee of the district judge who is approved by the presiding judge;
  3. The county judge, a member of the commissioners' court designated by the county judge, or a designee approved by the commissioners' court;
  4. A judge of a county court at law in Tom Green County having jurisdiction over criminal matters and designated by the commissioners' court, or a designee of the judge who is approved by the commissioners court;
  5. The district attorney or an assistant district attorney designated by the district attorney;
    - a) Local Rule Tom Green County is unique with two District Attorneys; annually the District Attorneys will decide if they want one or two representatives. The decision will be noted on the annual designee form.
  6. A licensed bail bond surety or agent for a corporate surety in Tom Green County elected under Section 1704.0535, or a bail bond surety or agent for a corporate surety licensed in Tom Green County who is designated by the elected surety or agent;
  7. A Justice of the Peace;
    - a) The Tom Green County Justices of the Peace Officials shall make an appointment to the Board of their selection for membership to the Board by election OC Section 1704.0535 (D). The decision will be noted on the annual designee form signed by the tenured Justice of the Peace Judge or by the Justice of the Peace Administrative Judge

8. The district clerk or the clerk's designee;
  9. The county clerk or the clerk's designee;
  10. If appointed by the Board, a presiding judge of a municipal court located within Tom Green County;
    - a) City of San Angelo has one Municipal Judge who will serve perpetually until such time as another Judge is hired.
    - b) If more than one Municipal Judge is employed the Board will select who serves as primary and who is alternate.
  11. The County Treasurer or the Treasurer's designee; and
  12. A criminal defense attorney practicing in the county and elected by other attorneys whose principal places of business are located in the county and who are not legally prohibited from representing criminal defendants, or the designee of the criminal defense attorney.
- b. Persons authorized to designate the member of the Board in a particular category named above shall make such designation in writing on the annual designee form and present to the Board. Electronic-mail (E-mail) is acceptable.
  - c. The Board shall annually conduct a secret ballot election:
    1. To elect the member of the Board who serves as the representative of licensed bail bond sureties by electing a licensed bail bond surety or agent for a corporate surety Board member. Each individual licensed in the county as a bail bond surety or agent for a corporate surety is entitled to cast one vote for each license held. If the bail bond sureties fail to elect by a majority a new representative, then the bail bond surety serving previously shall continue as the bail bond sureties' representative providing that he or she is a licensed bail bond surety in good standing.
    2. To elect the member of the Board who serves as the representative of a criminal defense attorney practicing in the county. Each attorney whose principal places of business are located in the county and who are not legally prohibited from representing criminal defendants is entitled to a vote. If the attorneys fail to elect by a majority a new representative, then the criminal defense attorney serving previously shall continue as the bail bond sureties' representative providing that he or she is a licensed bail bond surety in good standing. HB 2894 1704.0535 090115
  - d. If a member of the Board, otherwise known as Primary, cannot be in attendance, that member may send their designee, otherwise known as Secondary, to participate in any matter before the Board, including voting as a part of the quorum present.

- e. All Board Members and Designees shall be required to take a class on Open Meetings and Open Records as required Government Code 552.012 and 551.005 Texas Statute. Certificates of completion (within 90 days) shall be recorded in the Board Minutes.

## **2.4 Organization of the Board.**

- a. The Board, at each December meeting, after required member elections, shall elect Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, term to start in January. There are no term limits.
- b. The Board, at each December meeting, shall recognize the members for the coming year.
- c. The Chair shall preside at all meetings. The Chair may vote on Board matters.
- d. The Vice-Chair shall act in the temporary absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall automatically become Chair if the Chair vacates the position for any reason. In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair at a regular or special meeting of the Board, any other member may preside as acting Chair.
- e. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and shall have the responsibility of preserving records of the Board except as specifically provided in these rules. If the Secretary fails to serve the entire year for any reason, the Board shall elect a new Secretary at the next regular meeting;
- f. A license holder who is a member of the Board shall abstain from voting in any matter directly concerning issuance, suspension or revocation of the license holder's license. The member may be present in the meeting;
- g. The Chair may appoint the County Attorney as General Counsel for the Board as a non-voting member. The County Attorney may designate an Assistant County Attorney to attend as a non-voting member in their absence. No additional pay is authorized for this position.
- h. Each December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Chair shall request, in writing, the appropriate authority to designate, by letter to the Board, the person who shall serve as a Board member for the succeeding calendar year. No additional pay is authorized.
- i. The Vice-Chair shall act as the Public Information Officer.
- j. The Chair may appoint the Jail Administrator, Jail Lieutenant as Jail Liaison to the Board if they are not the Sheriff's Designee. No additional pay is authorized.
- k. The Chair may create sub-committee(s) as needed.
- l. The Sheriff may appoint an investigating Deputy Sheriff to the Board as a non-voting member, if a member of the Sheriff's Office, who must be a Deputy Sheriff of rank at least Sergeant, is not the Sheriff's Designee.

## **2.5 Meetings and Agenda.**

- a. The Board shall meet at least four times each year during the months of January, April, July, October, and other times as deemed necessary by the presiding officer.  
OC SEC 1704.055
- b. Meetings shall be held in the Commissioners Court Room, Edd B Keyes Building, 113 West Beauregard, San Angelo, Texas, at 11:00 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- c. The Board may meet at such other times and places specified in the Notice of Meeting at the call of the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, at the call of the Vice-Chair.
- d. Four members shall constitute a quorum.
- e. The Board may take action only on a majority vote of the Board members present.  
OC SEC 1704.056
- f. The agenda shall be prepared and posted by the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary. All required notices shall be blind copy e-mailed by the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary to all board members and to all approved bail bond agents/companies.
- g. Meetings are subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act and notice shall be posted as required in that Act by posting a copy of the agenda on the official notice board and may be posted on the website of Tom Green County Bail Board at least three (3) business days in advance of any regular or special meeting, with a copy thereof delivered to or e-mailed to each member at the address supplied by each member to the Secretary. GC SEC 551.043
- h. In order to be placed on the agenda for a regularly scheduled meeting, a request shall be directed to the Chair and the Secretary of the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board no later than 5:00 p.m. seven (7) days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. The request shall include all pertinent documentation.
- i. The Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary shall send a preliminary agenda to all Board Members the 48 hours before the deadline to ensure all items are included on the agenda that have been requested or need to be requested.

- j. No item will be placed on an agenda until all relevant information is delivered to the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary of the Board. This specifically includes, but is not limited to, original or renewal applications and requests to increase collateral by putting additional property in trust. Any person requesting an item be placed on the agenda must also provide relevant documents to each member of the Board at the Board meeting.
- k. Any requests for special or emergency meetings shall be by written request to the Chair; Vice-Chair or Secretary of the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board and shall be accompanied by all pertinent data including a statement of why a special or emergency meeting should be called. The request for an emergency meeting must comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

## **SECTION 3: RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **3.1 Adoption, Amendment and Repeal.**

The Rules and Regulations of the Board may be adopted, altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, provided that at least ten (10) days written notice is given of the proposed adoption, alteration, amendment or repeal, by posting the proposed rules in the same manner as posting notice of meetings of the Board.

### **3.2 State Law Controls.**

These regulations are intended to comply with applicable state statutes relative to bail bonds, particularly Chapter 1704 of the Code, as it may be amended. In the event of any conflict between these regulations and any Texas law, the latter shall govern. A provision found to violate state law will be considered void and severed from the regulations, and the balance of the regulations shall remain in full force and effect.

### **3.3 Responsibility of License Holders.**

These rules and regulations are not duplicative of the provisions of Texas law governing the making of bail bonds or the regulations governing bail bond sureties. It is the responsibility of all license holders to read, be familiar with and follow the requirements of Texas Occupations Code Chapter 1704 and the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure provisions regarding bail bonds.

## **SECTION 4: LICENSING**

### **4.1 License Required.**

- a. No person may act as a bail bond surety in Tom Green County, Texas without first obtaining a license from the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board, except as otherwise provided by law. OC SEC 1704.151
- b. A person licensed to practice law in the State of Texas may execute a bail bond or act as a surety for persons the attorney actually represents as attorney of record in criminal cases as provided by the Texas Occupations Code Chapter 1704; as it may be amended. OC SEC 1704.163
- c. A separate license is required for each agent operating under a corporate power of attorney.
- d. An individual may hold one license as an individual and one license as an agent for a corporate surety, but may not hold more than one of each type of license.

### **4.2 Application. OC SEC 1704.154**

- a. A person seeking a license shall submit an original sworn application for a license to the County Treasurer's Office together with the required filing fee.
  1. Treasurer shall scan all documents received; then, utilizing encrypted email or encrypted password-protected email, will send copies the of application to the Bail Bond Board Members
- b. The filing fee for an application is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and is not refundable.
- c. An application shall be made on the form promulgated by the Board.
- d. If the surety proposes doing business under an assumed name, then a completed assumed name certificate ready for filing shall be submitted with a new application or a copy of a recorded assumed name certificate shall be submitted with a renewal.
- e. If the application is for a new license, the street address, mailing address and phone number for each place of business where the surety will be conducting business shall be furnished to the Board.
  1. If known, with application; or
  2. If unknown at time of application, within twenty (20) days after the application is approved; and
  3. Office location must be in an appropriate zoned area.
    - a) Not a Residence

- f. A new license holder shall furnish to the Board the taxpayer identification number (TIN) for the business within sixty (60) days of being licensed.
- g. All applications must include:
  - 1. A current, sworn financial statement that includes all assets and liabilities, prescribed by the Board and dated within 90 days of the application. Only the original financial statement is required to contain account numbers, social security number and date of birth, and this information may be redacted from the copies.
  - 2. An Authorization of Release form allowing the Sheriff or his designee to investigate the information contained in the financial statement.
  - 3. A set of fingerprints of the applicant. If the applicant is a corporation, a set of fingerprints of the person who will be the agent of the corporation for the business. In a renewal application, a copy of the fingerprints filed with the original application.
  - 4. If the applicant is a corporation, the name and address of the corporation's agent for service of process and a statement on the corporation letterhead that the corporation will notify the Board's Secretary of any change in this designation.
  - 5. The appropriate checklist of items to be contained in the application packet. The checklist to be used will be posted on the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board website and must be signed by the applicant stating that the application is complete. If the application is not complete, the application will not be accepted.
- h. Applicants pledging real property as security shall only pledge real property as security located within the State of Texas, and must include the following items in the application, in addition to the items required by Section 1704.155 of the Code:
  - 1. A current statement indicating the net value of the property according to the appropriate Tax Appraisal District, or at the discretion of the applicant, a current appraisal indicating the net value of the property made by a real estate appraiser who is a member in good standing of a nationally recognized professional appraiser society or trade organization that has an established code of ethics, educational program and professional certification program. A "current appraisal" is one made within twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the application is submitted to the Board. The Tom Green County Treasurer will review the Tax Appraisal District records and update collateral as necessary annually.

2. An agreement to keep current the insurance on any improvements on the property against any damage or destruction while the property remains in trust, in the full amount of the value claimed for improvements, showing the Board as the first mortgagee and any loss payable to the benefit of the Board. The applicant shall provide the Board with a copy of the policy and a copy of any insurance renewal policy on or before each annual license anniversary date. The applicant shall notify the Board in writing of any changes, cancellation, termination or lapse in the policy required herein.
3. A proposed Deed of Trust which the applicant plans to execute to the Board on the property. If the applicant is married, the applicant's spouse must also execute the Deed of Trust or provide a sworn affidavit to be filed in the Deed Records that the spouse agrees to the transfer to the Board, any right, title, or interest that the spouse may have in the property. The Board shall be listed as first lien holder on any real property placed with the Board for security.
4. A current color photo of each property placed as collateral. A new photo will be filed with each renewal application.
5. A form prescribed by the Board affirming that the applicant will not designate the property as a homestead.
- i. An application for renewal of a license shall include a list of all the license holder's active bonds, pending Judgments NISI and Final Judgments pending payment. If the applicant is a corporation, the required lists shall include only the license holder's bonds executed by the agent named in the application.
- j. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all of these requirements are followed and that all necessary information is provided to the Board prior to consideration of any original or renewal application.

#### **4.3 Consideration by the Board. OC SEC 1704.157-161**

After an application has been properly submitted and the fee has been paid, the following procedure shall be followed:

- a. The application shall be placed on the agenda for initial consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.
- b. Unless otherwise directed by the Board at the meeting where initial consideration is given to the application, the Treasurer or Treasurer's designee shall cause an investigation to be made to determine whether or not the applicant possesses sufficient financial resources to comply with the Code and satisfies all other requirements of the Code and these regulations, and shall cause those findings to be submitted to the Board in a written report at the next meeting. If any person or entity

contacted in the course of the investigation requires a release before divulging information that is different than the release form provided by the Board, the Treasurer or Treasurer's designee shall contact the applicant and request completion of the required release. If the applicant refused to complete the release, the Treasurer or Treasurer's designee shall notify the Board, and the Board may consider the applicant's refusal to complete the required release in its decision to grant or deny the license.

- c. The application for a new or renewal license will be considered for approval at the first meeting during which the application is initially presented. The Board reserves the right to table the decision until the next called meeting.
- d. The applicant shall be notified of the date of final hearing on the application by mail, fax or e-mail, which includes a copy of the agenda and notice of the meeting, to the address contained in the application.
- e. If, after the final hearing, the Board is satisfied that no ground exists on which to deny the application, the Board shall enter an order conditionally approving the application subject to the application being perfected by the filing of the security deposits required of the license holder. At the end of ninety (90) days, if the required security deposits have not been made to the Treasurer, conditional approval shall expire without notice and the applicant will have to reapply.
- f. If the Board determines that a ground exists to deny the application, the Board shall enter into the minutes that effect. The Secretary shall send a certified excerpt of the minutes to the applicant.
- g. The license certificate shall show on its face the license number and expiration date.
  - 1. The license number will be four digits. The first two digits will be the year when approved; the last two digits reflect the next available number in order of approval.

#### **4.4 License Expiration and Renewal. OC SEC 1704.162**

- a. The filing fee for a renewal application is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). The fee is not refundable and shall accompany the application.
- b. The application for renewal shall have the same form and content as an application for the original license. The applicant shall include a copy of any certificate of deposit and a copy of a recorded CD assignment. If real property is pledged, the applicant shall include a copy of the recorded Deed of Trust and all other documents pertaining to real property that are required in an original application.

- c. It is the responsibility of the license holder to apply for renewal. If a renewal application is not timely filed and the current license expires, the license holder shall not execute bail bonds until a new license is issued.
- d. If a renewal application is not timely filed, an original application is required.

**4.5 Revocation and Suspension of License. OC SEC 1704.251-257**

- a. A Notice of Hearing to suspend or revoke a license shall be sent by regular mail, hand-delivery or e-mail to each member of the Board, and shall be posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on the official bulletin board at the Tom Green County Courthouse.
- b. The license holder shall have the right to be represented by an attorney at a hearing to suspend or revoke a license.
- c. If a revocation is imposed, no probation of the revocation shall be allowed. If a suspension is imposed, the Board, in its discretion, may, but shall not be required to, probate the suspension upon any reasonable conditions it may set.
- d. If a license is suspended under Section 1704.253 of the Code for failure to maintain required security, that suspension shall be reported by the Treasurer to the Board and included in the minutes of the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- e. The district or county clerk shall immediately notify the Sheriff if a bail bond surety fails to pay a final judgment as provided by Section 1704.204(a) of the Code. After receiving a notification, the Sheriff may not accept any further bonds from the bail bond surety until the surety pays the judgment. The bail bond surety's privilege to post bonds is reinstated when the bail bond surety pays the judgment.

## **SECTION 5: SECURITY**

### **5.1 Deposit of Security. OC SEC 1704.155; 1704.160**

Upon notice that an application for license has been tentatively approved, every applicant shall within ninety (90) days:

- a. Deposit with the Tom Green County Treasurer a cashier's check, an automatically renewal certificate of deposit (which shall include an assignment, on a form approved by the Board, of the principal to the "Tom Green County Bail Bond Board), cash or cash equivalent in the amount indicated in the licensee's application, but in no event less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), which shall be held in a special fund in the Tom Green County Depository to be called the Bail Bond Security Fund; or
- b. If real property is to be used as security by the applicant, the applicant shall, together with the applicant's spouse (if the applicant is married), execute a Deed of Trust to the real property listed in the application, with the Chair as trustee, conveying said property in trust to the Board.
  1. The property shall be valued in the amount indicated on the appraisal presented to the Board and in the event of more than one appraisal being presented to the Board, the appraisal accepted by the Board during the application process. The value of the property or properties may not be less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) and shall be pre-approved by the county attorney.
  2. The Deed of Trust shall be delivered to the attorney for the Board for approval. The applicant shall then record the Deed of Trust, pay all filing fees and deliver Approved Deed of Trust to the Treasurer.
  3. The applicant shall provide a binder from an insurance company showing the Board as mortgagor or primary loss payee on any improvements on the property.
  4. Color photos of property and paid tax receipts must be provided.

### **5.2 Additional Security.**

- a. The Treasurer may accept cash, certificates of deposit, or cashier's checks for additional security without further Board action. Once deposited, such additional security will affect an increase in the license holder's security limit within two (2) business days.
- b. The Treasurer may receive additional security in the form of real property, but such additional security is not effective until approved by the Board at a next regularly

scheduled meeting. Documents relating to security in the form of real property shall be provided to the county attorney's office for review prior to placement on the Board's agenda.

### **5.3 Records.**

The Treasurer shall keep records regarding real estate placed in trust with the Board, including insurance and tax payments.

### **5.4 Cash Deposits.**

- a. The Treasurer may place all cash deposits in a non-interest-bearing account.
- b. The Treasurer may invest with cash deposits pledged as security. Any interest earned shall remain on deposit and accrue to the license holder. Interest earned will not increase the required collateral amount and shall be remitted to the license holder at the close of the fiscal year.
- c. The Treasurer shall make periodic reports to the license holder and the Board of the amount of interest accrued upon request.
- d. If funds are withdrawn to pay final judgments of forfeiture, the Treasurer shall pay by check.
- e. The bail bond Security Fund shall be subject to audit by the Tom Green County Auditor.

### **5.5 Withdrawal of Security. OC SEC 1704.210**

- a. A license holder may withdraw security only as provided by Section 1704.210 of the Code or by these rules.
- b. If a license holder's liability, actual or potential, falls below the amount of security pledged, the license holder may, with the Board's approval, withdraw security to the extent that the remaining security is sufficient to cover the license holder's liability provided that the license holder's security remain in compliance with Title 10, Chapter 1704, Texas Occupations Code.
- c. The license holder may, with Board approval, substitute one form of security for another, provided that the security remains sufficient to cover the license holder's liability provided that the license holder's security remains in compliance with Title 10, Chapter 1704, Texas Occupations Code.
- d. No license holder may withdraw security from deposit, or make changes to the nature, location, identification or amount of security deposited, without the Board's knowledge and approval.

- e. No more frequently than once a year, a license holder may withdraw security held by the Board if, but only if, the security left on deposit with the Board after the withdrawal will be sufficient to keep the license holder within the appropriate ratios contained within Section 1704.203 of the Code. This rule shall not apply to a request for withdrawal of security made by a former license holder. Any such request by a former license holder shall be controlled solely by the provisions of Section 1704.210 of the Code.

## **SECTION 6: OPERATION OF BONDING BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Writing Bonds. OC SEC 1704.202**

Bonds shall be made under the following regulations:

- a. Within five (5) business days of the principal's release on the bond, a contract shall be executed between the surety and the principal and a copy given to the principal immediately after signing.
- b. The contract shall set forth all the following information:
  1. The amount of the bond fee. If the contract is for more than one bond, then the fee for each bond shall be set out separately together with a total fee.
  2. The amount of any late fees or penalties and the conditions under which they may be imposed.
  3. Any finance charges, credit card fees, surcharges, or any other fees.
  4. Any payment schedule, which shall include any down payment collected, how often a payment is due, how much the payment is, what date the first payment is due and when the subsequent payments are due.
    - a. A breakdown of each payment and the remaining balance after each payment.
  5. The amount and type of property taken for payment of the bail bond fee.
  6. The amount and type of property held by the bail bond surety for assurance of the principal's appearance in court and the conditions under which the property will be returned.
  7. The contract must be signed or acknowledged, and dated by both surety and principal at the time the agreement is executed.
- c. A bail bond surety may, at any time, by posting additional security, increase the bail bond surety's limit pursuant to Rule 5.2.a, and may, after Board approval, increase the bail bond surety's limit as provided by Rule 5.2.b.

### **6.2 Notification. OC SEC 1704.107**

The Sheriff shall immediately notify each court, including Justices of the Peace and municipal courts having jurisdiction over criminal matters in the county, and each entity charged with the responsibility of housing any prisoner in official custody pending trial, when a bail bond surety's license is suspended or revoked or an agent's authority is rescinded.

### **6.3 Certain bonds not counted against security limit.**

Bonds written in any municipal court or Justice of the Peace in Tom Green County shall not be counted against the license holder's liability. (I.e. Appeal Bonds)

**6.4 Bond Form.**

Bonds shall be written on a form approved by the Board.

**6.5 Proof of death of principal.**

A license holder shall not be released from liability on a bond where the defendant is alleged to be deceased until after a certified copy of the death certificate has been presented to the district or county attorney's office and the criminal case dismissed, or until the court has executed an order discharging the surety.

**6.6 Identification to telephone caller.**

A license holder or agent answering a telephone call to a bail bond surety's office phone number shall identify the actual or assumed Bail Bond business name of the surety to the caller.

Failure to do so may result in a suspension or revocation hearing.

**6.7 Name of business.**

The assumed name of each license holder's business must be clear, and distinct as to the identification of the license holder. No license holder may operate under an assumed name that is a derivative or substantially similar to a name being used by another license holder, except that a person who is operating one business as an individual and a separate business as an agent for a corporate surety may operate both businesses under names that are similar or derivative.

**6.8 Change of Ownership.**

- a. A copy of the proposed contract for sale of a license holder's business shall be provided to the Board prior to any change of ownership.
- b. At the time the proposed contract for sale is provided, a license holder who is selling a business shall provide to the Board an address for service or a sworn statement designating an agent and address for service.

**6.9 Identification Cards.**

- a. The Sheriff shall provide photo Identification (ID) cards to each agent and their employees.
  1. The card will include the surety/agent business name(s); full name of the agent and must be presented each time a bond is presented at the Jail.

2. ID Cards may be requested once annually at no charge to replace normal wear and tear; additional cards may be purchased at \$2.50 per card.
3. All ID Cards are property of the Tom Green County Sheriff and shall be returned upon termination of employment; termination; surrender or expiration of license or if the agent's authority is rescinded.

## **SECTION 7: LICENSE HOLDER RECORDS**

### **7.1 In General.**

- a. A license holder shall maintain a record of each bond on which the license holder appears as surety and shall maintain a separate set of records for each county in which the surety is licensed. The board will accept a printout of the jail log, which states the license holder as the surety.
- b. In addition to the information specified in the Code, the records shall include an acknowledged or a signed copy of any contract executed between the license holder and the principal or the principal's agent, as well as any receipt issued to the principal or the principal's agent for cash or property received from the principal or the principal's agent.
- c. A copy of all receipts with denoting who paid the money and who accepted the money.
- d. A statement of balance; which includes beginning balance and dates of all payments with current balance due. A breakdown of each payment and the remaining balance after each payment.
- e. All items are required to be held within the client's folder and are subject to audit.

### **7.2 Receipt for collateral. OC SEC 1704.305**

A license holder shall have a receipt signed by the surety and the principal or principal's agent and the individual placing the collateral, stating the following;

- a. The name of the person for whom the bond is posted;
- b. The county and case number(s) the collateral covers;
- c. Whether the collateral is being held for appearance and/or payment of fee;
- d. When the collateral will be returned;
- e. A list (description) of the collateral; third party valuation of collateral being held; and
- f. How request may be made for return of the collateral.

### **7.3 Agent for service.**

Within ten (10) days of a change in the designation of a corporate license holder's agent for service of process, the license holder shall notify the Board Secretary of the change in writing and provide the new agent's name and address.

## **7.4 Audit**

The license holder shall have all records for each bond posted for an annual audit. A reaudit will be conducted if there are any findings to ensure the problems have been corrected.

1. Transfer bonds are required to have all records and are subject to the annual audit.

## **SECTION 8: PAYMENT OF FINAL JUDGMENTS OR FORFEITURE**

### **8.1 In General. OC SEC 1704.204**

If a final judgment of forfeiture that results from the license holder's execution of a bail bond remains unpaid thirty-one (31) days after the date of the final judgment, the cash deposit or proceeds from foreclosure of a Deed of Trust shall be paid in satisfaction of that judgment, pursuant to 1704.204 of the Code.

### **8.2 Cash deposited as security.**

A license holder's cash deposit, if any, shall be paid in satisfaction of a bond forfeiture judgment upon presentation to the Treasurer of a certified copy of a final judgment. Payments shall be to the clerk of the court in which the judgment was rendered.

### **8.3 Real property executed as security.**

- a. Upon presentation to the Board of a certified copy of final judgment, the Deed of Trust to real property executed as security shall be immediately ordered to be posted for foreclosure in accordance with the statutes governing foreclosures of Deeds of Trust and the property shall be sold at foreclosure.
- b. Upon posting for foreclosure, the security deposit of the license holder is considered depleted by the appraised value of the property.
- c. Proceeds from the foreclosure sale shall first be applied to any expenses of sale and to court costs, and the remainder then applied to the principal and interest owing on the judgment.
- d. If the proceeds are insufficient to satisfy the judgment, then additional properties of the license holder held in trust by the Board may be foreclosed in accordance with the trust provisions, and if the proceeds from the foreclosure sale are insufficient to satisfy the judgment, then the Board may direct that execution issue on the judgment against any non-exempt property that the license holder may have.
- e. Proceeds remaining after satisfaction of the judgment shall be paid to the Treasurer for deposit to the account of the license holder as security for the outstanding bonds.

## **SECTION 9: EMPLOYEES OF LICENSE HOLDERS**

### **9.1 Prior Convictions.**

No license holder shall employ any person who within the preceding ten (10) years has committed a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or any felony, for which he or she has been finally convicted.

a. Moral Turpitude:

1. Conduct that is believed to be contrary to community standards of honesty, good morals, or justice.
2. Moral turpitude crimes are those that involve dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, deliberate violence, or that reflect adversely on honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness in other respects.
3. Crimes involving moral turpitude are generally grouped into three distinct general categories. The general categories of crimes and moral turpitude include:
  - a) Crimes against property
  - b) Crimes against the government
  - c) Crimes against people

### **9.2 Criminal History Check.**

Within thirty (30) days of the date of employment, all employees of a license holder shall submit to a criminal history check to be pursuant to Sheriff's procedure. Procedure will be posted on the Tom Green County Bail Bond website. It is the responsibility of the license holder to ensure that the criminal history check is done within the first thirty (30) days of employment.

### **9.3 Employee Cards.**

- a. The Sheriff shall issue an employee card to each employee of a license holder who has a satisfactory return on the criminal history check.
- b. The employee card shall be returned to the Sheriff within thirty (30) days of the termination of the employee's employment. It shall be the responsibility of the license holder to ensure that this procedure is followed.
- c. When an employee leaves the employ of a license holder and fails or refuses to return the employee card, the license holder shall make every attempt to retrieve the employee's card. If this is unsuccessful, the license holder shall, within fourteen (14) days of the separation from employment, send written notification to the attention of the Sheriff or Sheriff's designee advising of the

loss of the card and the efforts taken to retrieve the employee's card. Said notification shall be by Certified Mail in the form of a sworn affidavit.

- d. A new employee card is required when an agent leaves the employ of one license holder to work for another license holder.

## **SECTION 10: DISTRICT COURT FORMS**

Forms are adopted by the Bail Bond Board as submitted by the Tom Green County District Courts as the required document to be used in all Tom Green County Business. Bail Bond Board has no authority on the styling or format of the adopted forms.

Forms will be placed in the Appendix and on the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board website. A notification will be sent via e-mail to all approved Bail Bond Companies.

## **SECTION 11: COUNTY COURT FORMS**

Forms are adopted by the Bail Bond Board as submitted by the Tom Green County Courts as the required document to be used in all Tom Green County Business. Bail Bond Board has no authority on the styling or format of the adopted forms.

Forms will be placed in the Appendix and on the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board website. A notification will be sent via e-mail to all approved Bail Bond Companies.

## **SECTION 12: SHERIFF / JAIL FORMS**

Forms are adopted by the Bail Bond Board as submitted by the Tom Green County Sheriff as the required document to be used in all Tom Green County Business. Bail Bond Board has no authority on the styling or format of the adopted forms.

Forms will be placed in the Appendix and on the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board website. A notification will be sent via e-mail to all approved Bail Bond Companies.

## **SECTION 13: BAIL BOND BOARD FORMS**

Forms are adopted by the Bail Bond Board as the required document to be used in all Tom Green County Business.

Forms will be placed in the Appendix and on the Tom Green County Bail Bond Board website. A notification will be sent via email to all approved Bail Bond Companies.

Effective June 1, 2020

Repealed Previous Edition and Adopted Current Version December 13, 2017 Repealed Previous Edition and Adopted Current Version April 22, 2020

Effective June 1, 2020

Rule 5.4 (a) and 7.1(c) Revised 06172020

Effective July 20, 2022

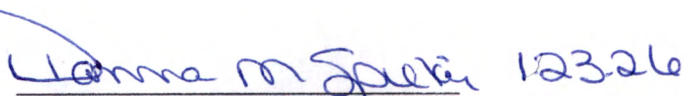
Rule 2.4( g) and 4.2 (a) (h) Revised

Effective January 21, 2026

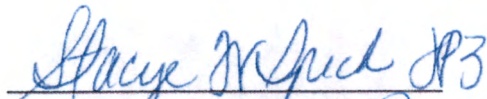
Rule 2.4(m) removed; Rule 2.5 (b) (g) updated Rule 4.2 (E) (3b) removed.

Rule 5.4 (a) updated (b) added Rule 6.1 revised; Rule 6.7 revised.

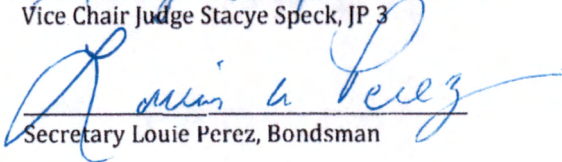
Rule 7.1 revised and 7.4 added.

 12326

Chair Dianna Spieker, County Treasurer

 JP3

Vice Chair Judge Stacye Speck, JP 3



Secretary Louie Perez, Bondsman