

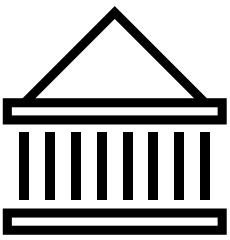
# BEING A SURETY



Courts are overwhelmed by the number of people in custody. Often, bail is only granted when excessive conditions are met. This delays hearings unnecessarily. And, often, the conditions have nothing to do with ensuring someone's appearance in court or protecting the public.

One of the most common required conditions is having a **surety to sign bail**.

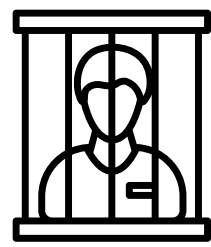
## WHAT IS A SURETY?



A surety is a person who comes to court and **promises to supervise an accused person** while they are out on bail.



A surety also **promises an amount of money to the court** if the accused doesn't follow any bail conditions or doesn't show up to court when required.

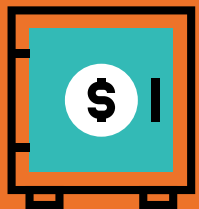


If you **don't have the money or social support** to find a surety, you're more likely to find yourself staying in jail until trial.

## IF YOU'RE A SURETY



You may be asked to **testify in court** about your ability to supervise the accused.



You will need to **show the court that you're "good" for the amount of the bail**. This can include real estate in your name, bank accounts and investments.



If the accused doesn't follow bail conditions, it's your job to **call the police**—and you may have to pay the court the money you promised when you agreed to be a surety.



You can **stop being a surety at any time** by going to the courthouse and asking to be removed as surety. The accused will then go back to jail or a warrant will be issued for their arrest.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website: [www.legalaid.on.ca/bailstrategy](http://www.legalaid.on.ca/bailstrategy)



And visit **LawFacts.ca**, our website which provides free legal information that answers questions about common legal issues.



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