



# UNDERSTANDING BAIL MANAGEMENT REPORTS

THE BAIL REPORT CONSISTS OF MULTIPLE SECTIONS THAT PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT BAIL ACTIVITIES WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME.

THIS INFORMATION CAN BE USED TO NOTE PATTERNS, TRENDS, AND IDENTIFY ISSUES WITHIN THE SYSTEM.

FIND BAIL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AT [WWW.DAUPHINCOUNTY.GOV/PRISON/BOARD-INFORMATION](http://WWW.DAUPHINCOUNTY.GOV/PRISON/BOARD-INFORMATION)

## HOW TO READ THE COLUMNS

### Case Number and Name

Each entry on the report starts with the case number and name of the defendant. The Case numbers include 20 characters of numbers and letters, starting with the letters “MJ.” The names are shown with the last name first.

### Bail Set

This column first indicates the amount of Bail. Below that, the Action simply shows the amount was SET or DENIED. The Date is the day the Action took place. The Type shows if the bail is UNSECURED or MONETARY. The Authority is the Judge who set the bail. Finally, the Last Update Court Office is the Magisterial District in which the proceedings took place.

### Bail Posted

Under this column, the first item is Security. This shows the amount of bail that was secured/paid. The Date shows when it was paid. If the bail was paid, the Status would show as POSTED. Surety is where the payment came from and will show the name of the person who made the payment. Type is the type of payment made. This could show as cash, through a surety bond, or if the defendant was released on recognizance.

### Case

The Offense Tracking Number or OTN is the first item in this column. An OTN is issued for each offense charged to a suspect. The remaining items are all related to the defendant’s case including the outcome (or Disposition) and the Processing Status- which could show the case as complete, transferred to another court, awaiting preliminary arraignment, etc.

## COMMON QUESTIONS

### Why are some bail amounts higher than others?

Factors include the severity of the crime, the defendant’s criminal history, and the risk of flight.

### What does it mean if bail is forfeited?

The defendant failed to appear in court and the bail amount is not returned.

### How are surety bonds different from cash bail?

Surety bonds involve a third party, typically a bail bondsman, who guarantees the bail amount.

## TYPES OF BAIL AND WHAT THEY MEAN

### **Monetary Bail**

The defendant must pay a specific amount of money to be released from jail. The judge may set conditions in addition to requiring the defendant to appear in court and refrain from committing another offense. For instance, the judge could bar contact with an alleged victim, bar the defendant from going to certain places, impose a curfew, or require drug testing.

**Example:** If the bail is set at \$10,000, the defendant must pay this amount to the court. If the defendant fails to appear, the surety (the person posting the bail) will forfeit that amount to the court. If the defendant violates a condition of bail, forfeiture in that amount may occur.

### **Unsecured Bail**

The defendant does not have to pay any money upfront but agrees to pay a specified amount if they fail to appear in court. As with monetary bail, the judge can set conditions that the defendant must abide by or forfeit the amount of bail.

**Example:** Bail set at \$5,000 means the defendant owes this amount only if they miss their court dates or violates a condition of bail.

### **Surety Bonds**

A third party (usually a bail bondsman) agrees to pay the full bail amount if the defendant fails to appear in court.

**Example:** If bail is set at \$15,000, a bondsman might charge the defendant a non-refundable fee (typically 5%) to post the bail.

### **ROR (Release on Own Recognizance)**

The defendant is released without having to pay bail, based on their promise to return for all court appearances. The only conditions are that the defendant appear and refrain from committing any new offense.

**Example:** The court believes the defendant is not a flight risk and releases them on their word.

### **Nominal Bail**

A minimal amount of money is set for bail, often symbolic.

**Example:** Bail might be set at \$1. This type is used to release the defendant under court supervision with minimal financial burden. The court may use this form of bail to give relief under Rule 600 related to speedy trial.

### **Denied Bail**

Bail is denied, and the defendant must remain in custody until their court date. Defendants charged with offenses which could result in life imprisonment such as first-degree murder or a third-strike offense are unbailable under the Pennsylvania Constitution.

**Example:** This may occur in cases involving severe crimes or high flight risk.

(A) To determine whether to release a defendant, and what conditions, if any, to impose, the bail authority shall consider all available information as that information is relevant to the defendant's appearance or nonappearance at subsequent proceedings, or compliance or noncompliance with the conditions of the bail bond, including information about:

(1) the nature of the offense charged and any mitigating or aggravating factors that may bear upon the likelihood of conviction and possible penalty;

(2) the defendant's employment status and history, and financial condition;

(3) the nature of the defendant's family relationships;

(4) the length and nature of the defendant's residence in the community, and any past residences;

(5) the defendant's age, character, reputation, mental condition, and whether addicted to alcohol or drugs;

(6) if the defendant has previously been released on bail, whether he or she appeared as required and complied with the conditions of the bail bond;

(7) whether the defendant has any record of flight to avoid arrest or prosecution, or of escape or attempted escape;

(8) the defendant's prior criminal record;

(9) any use of false identification; and

(10) any other factors relevant to whether the defendant will appear as required and comply with the conditions of the bail bond.

(B) The decision of a defendant not to admit culpability or not to assist in an investigation shall not be a reason to impose additional or more restrictive conditions of bail on the defendant.