

WHAT TO DO WHEN A LOVED ONE IS ARRESTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

A Free Family Guide

Provided by AC Bail Bonds.. Serving All of North Carolina, 24/7

You Are Not Alone

Finding out that a loved one has been arrested is one of the most stressful experiences a family can face. You may feel panicked, confused, or unsure what to do next. This guide walks you through exactly what to do step by step so you can act quickly and bring your loved one home.

1

Stay Calm and Get the Facts

Before you can help, you need basic information. Try to find out:

- Full legal name of the person arrested
- The county or city where the arrest took place
- The charges they are being held on
- The name of the jail or detention facility
- Their booking number (if available)



Tip:

You can call the jail directly or search the county sheriff's website to find inmate information. In Mecklenburg County, visit meckcountync.gov and search inmate lookup.

2

Understand the Bail Process

After an arrest, the person is taken to jail and processed (booked). A judge or magistrate will set a bail amount — this is money held as a guarantee that your loved one will appear at all court dates.

Two ways to pay bail:

- **Pay the full cash amount.** Paid directly to the court. Returned after the case is resolved.
- **Use a bail bondsman.** You pay a percentage (typically 10–15%) as a non-refundable fee, and the bondsman posts the full bail on your behalf. This is the most common option.

3

Contact a Licensed Bail Bondsman

Once you have the bail amount, contact a licensed bail bond agent as soon as possible. A good bondsman will explain your options clearly, never pressure you, and work quickly to secure release.

What to have ready when you call:

- The full name and booking number of the person in custody
- The jail they are being held at
- The bail amount set by the judge
- Your name, phone number, and relationship to the defendant

4 Know Your Responsibilities

When a bail bond is posted, both you (the co-signer) and the defendant take on responsibilities:

- **The defendant** must appear at every court date missing a date results in the bond being forfeited
- **The defendant** should not travel out of state without notifying the bondsman
- As a co-signer, you are financially responsible if the defendant skips court
- Keep the bondsman updated if contact information changes

5 Support Your Loved One After Release

Release from jail is just the beginning. Here's how to help:

- Help them track all court dates use a phone calendar with reminders
- Encourage them to meet with an attorney as soon as possible
- Connect them with support services if needed substance abuse, mental health, or housing
- Remind them that showing up to court protects everyone, including you as a co-signer

Types of Bonds in North Carolina

Bond Type	What It Means
Secured Bond	Requires a bail bondsman or cash payment to the court
Unsecured Bond	Released on a promise to appear, no money upfront
Federal Bond	For federal charges require a specialized bondsman
Immigration Bond	For ICE detainees handled by licensed immigration bondsmen

Need Help Now? We're Available 24/7.

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