



After-an-Arrest Checklist

What to do in the first hours after a loved one is arrested — calm, practical steps.



BailBeacon is a free matching service, not a bail agent, bondsman, attorney, or law firm. This guide is general information, not legal advice. Bail rules and the bail premium are set by each state and county. Always work with a licensed bail agent, verify the license yourself, confirm every cost in writing before you pay, and consult a licensed attorney for legal advice.

- **First, breathe and gather facts**

- Get the full legal name and date of birth of the person arrested.
- Find out which jail or facility they are being held in, and the county and state.
- Note the charge if you know it — it affects the bail amount.



- **Confirm where they are held**

- Most counties have an online inmate locator or a jail phone line.
- Write down the booking number if you can get it.
- It can take a few hours after arrest before booking is complete and bail can be addressed.



• Understand the bail process

- Learn whether bail has been set, or whether there will be a bail hearing.
- Understand that you can pay the full bail in cash, or use a licensed bail agent for a state-regulated premium.
- Some states have limited or ended cash bail — the process varies by jurisdiction.



• **Protect yourself**

- Never share your Social Security number or bank logins to be 'matched' with an agent.
- Only work with a licensed bail agent and verify the license yourself.
- Get every cost in writing before you pay anything.
- For legal questions, consult a licensed attorney — bail agents are not lawyers.



• **Get connected**

- When you are ready, BailBeacon can connect you, free, with a licensed bail agent near the jail.
- You compare options, confirm costs, and choose who to work with. You stay in control.

