



Policy 1116

Subject

ASSISTANCE TO BAIL BONDSMAN / BOUNTY HUNTERS

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By Order of the Police Commissioner

POLICY

It is the policy of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to provide assistance to a bail bondsman or bounty hunter pursuant to their powers of arrest granted as a matter of common law.

REQUIRED ACTION

Member

1. Notify a supervisor to respond whenever a bail bondsman/bounty hunter has asked you to stand by or has presented a person to you for assistance with transportation.
2. Assist bail bondsman/bounty hunters by standing outside of the premises, or with transportation of prisoners, when requested, only after the following conditions are met:
 - 2.1. Ensure that you verify the identification of the bail bondsman/bounty hunter.

NOTE: Bail bondsmen carry a current bail bondsman license and bounty hunters carry a letter of authorization.

- 2.2. Ensure the bail bondsman/bounty hunter presents a copy of a valid warrant or Court Order of Forfeiture. Verify the existence of an outstanding warrant. In cases where you are unable to verify the existence of a warrant, **do not** assist the bail bondsman/bounty hunter.
3. Provide assistance in keeping with BPD procedures. Perform duties as required when you have probable cause to do so, as in situations involving hot pursuit or observing the subject on the premises.
4. Limit yourself to protecting life and property and **do not** get involved in the physical arrest or forced entry into a dwelling or business unless extenuating circumstances exist.
5. Assist with any transportation needs of the bail bondsman/bounty hunter.
6. Be guided by Policy 1104, *Arrest Warrants*, if the subject is arrested on an out of state warrant.

- 6.1. Report all encounters with bail bondsman/bounty hunters requiring assistance and action taken, outlining all pertinent facts on an Incident Report, Form 008. Include all information in the report obtained from the identification displayed by the bail bondsman/bounty hunter.

Supervisor

1. Ensure subordinates carry out their official duties in accordance with this Policy.
2. Respond to the call for assistance for bail bondsman/bounty hunters when notified.

LEGAL REFERENCE

1. Regulation of bail bonds is found in Maryland Rule 4-217, "Bail Bonds", and in Maryland Rule 16-805, "Appointment of bail bond commissioner – Licensing and regulation of person authorized to write bonds".
2. The common law allows bail bondsman/bounty hunters to requisition official aid to take a person into custody and to take people into custody themselves *Shifflett v. State*, 80 Md. App. 151, 159 (1989); *Frasher v. State*, 8 Md. App. 439, 445 – 1970.

RESCISSION

Remove and destroy/recycle General Order K-16, *Assistance To Bail Bondsman/Bounty Hunters*, dated 11 February 2002.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This Policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.