

# BOND

1.

## What is Bond?

Bond is money that you pay to DHS as a guarantee that you will appear at all your immigration hearings. Getting bond will allow you to fight your immigration case from outside detention.

The minimum bond is \$1,500 and there is no maximum. However, not everyone qualifies for bond.

If you are granted bond, you must pay the entire amount.

2.

## Requirements to qualify for bond:

- No aggravated felonies
- No drug charges
- If you are a Legal Permanent Resident: No more than 2 Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude (CIMT)
- If you are undocumented: No CIMTs (unless you have just one single, misdemeanor offense with a sentence of 180 days or less)

If you qualify for bond, the judge will consider the following in his decision to give you bond and the amount:

- Whether you are a danger to society. *(And if you already have a criminal record, whether you have rehabilitated.)*
- Whether you are a flight risk. *(For example: if you will appear at all your hearings, if you have family ties, and a place to live.)*

3.

## Useful documents you may present to the judge at your bond hearing:

### Examples of family ties

- Birth certificates of your children.
- Marriage certificate to US Citizen or Legal Permanent Spouse.
- Evidence of other family with legal immigration status.
- School Records

### Proof of Income *(your income AND the income of the person who will pay your bond)*

- Pay stubs, tax returns, and letters from your employer.

### Letters of Support

- Letters of support from your family, friends, employers, pastor. People who have status in the US (must be in English).

### Examples of Rehabilitation

- Evidence of rehabilitation like completed alcohol, drug, domestic violence, or anger classes.
- Evidence of community service or involvement in community.



4.

**What happens after you are granted bond?**

You must pay the entire bond amount, not only a percentage. If you cannot afford to pay the bond, there are some bond companies you may use to finance your bond. These companies charge a finance fee and require some collateral (such as real estate, credit cards, jewelry and automobiles). If you need a list of those companies, ask Esperanza for the list.

Someone outside of detention with legal status must pay the bond at the Federal Building closest to them. The closest location in this area is 300 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA.

You should try to pay your bond before your **last** individual merits hearing. You may continue to fight your case while you are in detention until you gather enough money to pay the bond.

5.

**What happens after you pay bond?**

You will be released the same day or the day after your bond is paid. You must arrange for your own transportation from the detention center. Although there is often public transportation from the detention center, it is not guaranteed that you will be released before the last bus/train of the day.

Your case will be transferred to the court in Los Angeles or the court closest to your home. Your case is **not** closed or finished. You are still in removal proceedings; you will just be able to fight your case from outside of detention.

If you do not attend your hearings, you will get an order of deportation in absentia and will lose the bond money that was paid.

You should receive by mail a notice of your next hearing at the address you provide ICE at your release. You may also call the automated telephone service with your Alien number to find out when and where your next hearing is. The telephone number is:

**(800) 898-7180**

