

Hilburn Bail Bonds

326 South 2nd Street
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November 30, 2017

To whom it may concern:

Assertions have been made that there is an issue with the current bail bond system in that it has the potential to negatively affect the segment of the offender population who have limited financial resources. More plainly put, there is an opinion that, on any given day, there are many, many people who have been accused of a crime and are bondable, but that are unable to secure released from jail mainly because they cannot afford to pay either the entire bond or the 10 percent fee that would be charged if hiring a bail bondsman.

To test that assertion, we decided to do an audit of the St Lucie County Jail population in Fort Pierce, FL. This data was collected on November 29, 2107.

Total inmate population: 1,221
Inmates eligible for release on bail: 389

Of those 389 defendants, six (6) defendants were being held in lieu of bonds of \$ 375.00 and four (4) were being held in lieu of bonds of \$750.

Defendant	Total Bond	Charge(s)	Date of Arrest	Days	Previous Criminal History
Clarence	\$ 375.00	Pettit Theft	10/16/17	34	None in St. Lucie County
James	\$ 750.00	Petit Theft	11/09/17	20	1 misd
James	\$ 375.00	Defraud Innkeeper	11/15/17	14	None in St. Lucie County
Brandon	\$ 375.00	Disorderly Intoxication	11/17/17	12	5 felonies, 11 misd, 4 crim traffic, 10 traffic
Jillian	\$ 375.00	Prostitution	11/23/17	6	1 misd, 5 criminal traffic
Cynthia	\$ 375.00	Prostitution	11/23/17	6	4 felonies, 11 misd, 6 traffic
Christian	\$ 750.00	Driving w/o Valid License	11/26/17	3	1 felony, 1 misd
Glenn	\$ 750.00	Poss. Para.	11/28/17	1	17 felonies, 8 misd
Ronald	\$ 750.00	DUI	11/29/17	0	1 felony, 3 traffic

There were several more individuals being held in lieu of total bond amounts less than \$5000.00.

There was one (1) defendant with \$1500.00, one (1) with \$2250.00, one (1) with \$2500.00, six (6) with \$3750.00, one (1) with \$4000.00 and five (5) with 5000.00. The total number of people being held on this day in lieu of bonds less than \$5000.00 was 24. Not only does this represent less than five percent (4.167%) of the total eligible

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population, but in many cases previous criminal history and other factors may have prevented them from securing release on bond.

There were 150 people being held without bond because of probation violations that otherwise would have been able to post bond. Some people are held for county pretrial violation where the originating charge was dropped.

If this data is representative of the situation as a whole, then the immutable conclusion is that there is no pressing problem with the way bail is offered, administered or managed as it relates to those individuals of limited financial means.

Sincerely,

F. Mitchell Hilburn
Owner, Hilburn Bail Bonds
(772) 461-2420