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CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

NOTICE – Updated

TO: All Bail Agents, Bail Business Entities and Other Interested Parties
FROM: Licensing Services Division, Producer Licensing Bureau
DATE: May 18, 2023
SUBJECT: Bail Fugitive Recovery Persons Act Takes Effect July 1, 2023
and New Online Services for All Bail Licenses Now Available

New Law Effective 7/1/2023 The Bail Fugitive Recovery Persons Act will take effect July 1, 2023 ([Assembly Bill 2043](#), Jones-Sawyer, Chapter 768, Statutes of 2022).

Requires License This Act requires all individuals who are currently or would like to be a Bail Fugitive Recovery Person to be licensed by the California Department of Insurance (Department).

Education and Training Compliance The Department will ensure appropriate education and training requirements are met prior to issuing any licenses to individuals or business entities applying for a Bail Fugitive Recovery Agent (BFRA), Bail Agent, or Bail permittee license.

To ensure the requirements for the new BFRA license as well as the requirements for existing bail agents, solicitors, permittees (Bail) licenses are met, the Department is launching online services for applications and other services through Sircon, powered by Vertafore.

Requirements to Obtain a License Individuals applying for a BFRA license must complete the following requirements, pursuant to California Insurance Code sections [1652](#), [1802](#), [1802.1](#) and [1810.7](#):

(Updated)

- Complete 20-hour Bail prelicensing education*
- Complete the 40-hour Power of Arrest Course (certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, pursuant to California Penal Code section [832](#))
- Submit [fingerprints](#) for a background check
- Submit Bail Agent or Surety Insurer Appointment
- Submit \$1,000 bond*
- Submit \$1 million liability insurance policy – Individual or Business Entity

*Applicants holding an active Bail Agent or Bail Permittee license are exempt from this requirement.

Liability Insurance Policy Requirement (Updated)	California Insurance Code section 1802(b)(2)(B) states that the Commissioner shall delay the implementation of the one million dollar liability policy, “if there is either a reasonable lack of availability or affordability, or both, of liability insurance for bail fugitive recovery agents.” The Commissioner has determined that there is <u>not</u> a reasonable lack of availability or affordability of liability insurance for bail fugitive recovery agents.
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Therefore, pursuant to California Insurance Code section [1802\(b\)\(2\)\(A\)](#), all bail fugitive recovery agents shall file with the Department a policy of liability insurance that provides minimum limits of insurance of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for any one loss or occurrence due to either bodily injury or death, or property damage, or both.

Requirement to File Applications Online	All BFRA and Bail applications (for individuals or business entities) must be submitted to the Department electronically through the online services of Sircon. Individuals and business entities can begin submitting BFRA and Bail applications through Sircon starting April 17, 2023.
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The Department will no longer accept paper applications for Bail or BFRA licenses after May 31, 2023.

Applicants can request a “for good cause shown” exemption from this electronic filing requirement, pursuant to California Insurance Code section [1655](#).

How to Submit Online Applications	To submit an application for a BFRA or any other Bail license: • Go to www.sircon.com • Select Apply for a License • Select New Insurance License • Select Resident • Select Individual or Firm • Select Continue
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Follow the Sircon prompts to complete the submission to the Department.

Submit Business Associations	Business entities must submit associations (e.g., endorsements) to the Department through Sircon’s online services. Steps to submit:
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- Go to www.sircon.com/california
- Select **Maintain Agency Associations**
- Select **Sign In** or **Create an Agency Account**

Follow the Sircon prompts to complete the submission to the Department.

Sircon
Subscription
Required

Subscriptions are required to use [Sircon's](#) online services to submit the following to the Department:

- address changes
- appointments
- endorsements
- terminations

Existing Sircon subscribers will automatically have access to California services.

Online
Submissions
Benefits

Using Sircon's online services to submit applications has many benefits:

- Applications and support documents are uploaded and submitted electronically to the Department, which removes some of the processing delays associated with the requirement to mail these documents.
 - Photographs, digitally signed bonds, county clerk filings, newspaper postings, etc., can be attached directly to license applications.
 - Additional required items can be attached at any time to an application after the application is submitted.
 - 24/7 Online access to:
 - Look up courses and transcripts
 - Submit applications and renewals
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Create Sircon
Account

To create a new Sircon account, go to:

Individuals – www.sircon.com/individuals

Business Entities – www.sircon.com/agencies

Service Fees

Schedule of Service Fees for Sircon's online services (effective 4/17/2023):

Description	Fee
Submit application	No Fee
Submit appointments, endorsements, terminations.....	\$ 3.50
Submit online renewals.....	\$ 5.00
Submit letters of certification	\$ 6.00

May 18, 2023

Issue Date for BFRA Licenses	The BFRA licenses will not be issued until July 1, 2023, which is the effective date of the Act. Early submissions of the BFRA license applications will allow time for the Department to review, approve, and then issue the new BFRA licenses on or soon after July 1, 2023, but not before.
Contact Information	For Sircon account/subscription set-up or other Sircon service-related questions, please contact Sircon support by phone at (517) 381-3860. For all other questions, please contact the Producer Licensing Bureau – Bail Unit by email at sac.bail@insurance.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 492-3035 (Note: this is a voicemail only line). Please allow up to three business days for a response.
