



San Mateo County  
**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

## **CORRECTIONS DIVISION MAGUIRE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FAQs About Bail**

01/28/12

**Q.** What is bail?

**A.** Bail is some form of property (for example: cash, a home) that someone else pledges they will give the court if the defendant does appear in court for all proceedings and trials. It is a constitutional right of every prisoner. Some inmates may not be eligible for bail, however, due to the nature of their offense or the severity of the crime with which they have been charged.

**Q.** How do I get bail?

**A.** If an inmate is eligible for bail, there are two ways to post bail.

The first is to post a cash bond. Simply bring the amount of bail to the cashier's window located in the lobby of the jail, and the staff member will assist you.

The second way to post bail for an inmate is to use a Bail Bonds Agency. The Sheriff's Office is prohibited by law from referring business to bail agencies. You can find Bail Bonds agencies on the Internet or the yellow pages.

**Q.** What happens after bail is posted?

**A.** If the defendant is granted bail by a judge, that person is allowed to leave jail until s/he is required to come to court for scheduled proceedings and trials. If a defendant does not appear in court for their proceedings and/or trials, the person who posted bail loses that property.