

Charitable Bail Organizations

Art. 17.071 of the Code of Criminal Procedure sets out the guidelines for Charitable Bail Organizations. Charitable Bail Organizations are defined as a person who accepts and uses donations from the public to deposit money with a court in the amount of a defendant's bail bond. The term does not include a person accepting donations with respect to a defendant who is a member of the person's family or a nonprofit corporation organized for a religious purpose. This does not apply to a charitable bail organization that pays a bail bond for not more than three defendants in any 180-day period.

The office of the county clerk shall issue a certificate authorizing the charitable bail organization to pay bail bonds in the county after the clerk determines the organization is a nonprofit organization and current on all filings required by the Internal Revenue Code. The charitable bail organization shall file an affidavit in the office of the county clerk of each county where the organization intends to pay bail bonds designating the individuals authorized to pay bonds on behalf of the organization.

The charitable bail organization shall submit a report to the sheriff of the county in which the organization filed an affidavit for bond payments no later than the 10th of each month. A sheriff who receives a report shall provide a copy of the report to the Office of Court Administration.

Copies of these reports can be emailed to bail@txcourts.gov with the subject line in the following format:

[County Name] Sheriff Charitable Bail Organization [Month Name] Report