

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: PRETRIAL RELEASE

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I. Purpose

To establish proper procedures for permitting the pretrial release of persons arrested.

II. Scope

This procedure shall apply to all instances where a person is required to post a bond before he or she can be released from custody. Such instances shall be limited to traffic arrests or local ordinance violation. Any instance that requires a state warrant, other than a Municipal Court warrant, shall be processed through the Newton County Jail.

III. General Procedures

A. Released on Recognizance

1. Release on recognizance is generally unaccepted. An officer issuing a citation for a traffic offense should not hold the person's driver license in lieu of bail.
2. An officer issuing a citation for a violation of a local ordinance may release on recognizance of the person if the officer reasonably believes the person will appear in court.

B. Cash Bonds

1. Cash bonds may be accepted for either traffic violations or city ordinance violations.
2. The arresting officer on the road cannot accept cash bonds.

C. Municipal Court Bond

1. A signed bond will be allowed for traffic arrests and local ordinance violations, if it is signed by an approved bondman or bonding company.
2. Only those bondsmen approved by the Chief of Police shall be allowed to sign bonds for persons incarcerated for city violations in the Newton County Jail.

3. No property bonds will be allowed as set forth by the Municipal Court Judge

This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Stacey L. Cotton

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Chief of Police