

CORYELL COUNTY PRETRIAL SERVICES GUIDELINES

The decision on whether to grant or deny a Personal Bond is within the sole discretion of the Court. The Pretrial Services Office will interview, evaluate and recommend Personal Bonds in appropriate cases. The Pretrial Services Department will write bonds within the below listed guidelines. Any bond request that does not fall within the below listed guidelines must have the approval of the appropriate Judge/Court.

1. Live at their residence about 3 months or have a permanent/stable address. An exception would be military personnel just moving to the area or those transferred to the area due to employment. May not move out of the county while on bond unless they receive permission from the Judge/Court.
2. Current case is not a NISI. No NISI's within the past 5 years. If current case is bond forfeiture, determine the reason for the bond forfeiture. If it is a financial problem, but reporting was ok, we can consider writing it. Judges are ok with NISI history if we feel defendant is ok now.
3. No Escape, Bail Jumping, Failure to Appear charges to include AWOL from the military current or in recent history. If history is over 5 years old, check with PTS Director. Class C charges for these offenses do not count.
4. Misdemeanor – No Family Violence charges – This includes: Retaliation, Deadly Conduct, Terroristic Threat, Assault on Family Member, Unlawful Restraint, or any charge of violence against a family member or live in girlfriend/boyfriend. You can get permission from the Judge if there are special circumstances.
5. Do not write bonds on CPF – you can write the bond on other outstanding misdemeanor charges, if they are within the guidelines.
6. Do not write bonds for charges that are out of county/state; holds for other agencies or out of county/state; Parole (blue) warrants. If they have charges in Coryell County and holds or charges pending out of county/state, check with the appropriate Judge/Court.
7. Defendant on probation within Coryell County – Check with the CSCD to see if they have filed a MTR or plan to, then take appropriate action, within the guidelines. We do not write bonds on any MTR outside of Coryell County and do not write bonds on MTR within the county without the appropriate Judge's permission.
8. If PTS has previously gone off bond for a defendant do not write a new bond without letting the appropriate Judge know. There are circumstances where a defendant may have a valid reason for not reporting or paying, but make the appropriate Judge aware of the situation before bonding again.
9. At this time Coryell County is not Pretrial Services is not requiring bonding fees. However, if a bond amount is listed by either Court or the Justice of the Peace, it will be included on the written bond, and subject to collection based on the Courts decision.
10. If Surety is required by Pretrial Services or the Court, they must be a stable resident, with a stable job and no criminal history. If there is a criminal history, then check with Pretrial Services Director or the Court, whichever is requiring Surety.
11. If defendant is on bond with PTS on felony charges and has new charge(s), obtain approval from the District Court prior to writing another bond. We can bond the new charge(s); if they are within the guidelines, but use discretion (Find out why there is a new charge. Is it due to new arrest or was it still being investigated as part of the first charge? Make sure of circumstances). With misdemeanors we can write bonds on 2 DWLI's, 2 Criminal Trespass, 2 misdemeanor POM's, within a 1 year period. More than that you need to contact the Judge/Court.

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12. Felony charges – State Jail Felonies do not require Judge/Court approval, with the exceptions of the following offenses: Criminally Negligent Homicide, Evading Arrest 2 and DWI with Child Passenger. All F1, F2 and F3 charges must be approved by the Judge/Court. *If there is any doubt about a charge, then check with the Judge/Court.*
13. You may bond people that live in Texas on Misdemeanors and State Jail Felonies. We **DO NOT** write bonds for defendants living out of state unless directed to by the appropriate Judge/Court.

Prior to writing a bond or making a recommendation to the Judge/Court, take the following information into consideration:

- Community Ties: Do they have family in the area they live? Do they have children and are they living with them? Are they living with or caring for parents or other family members?
- Stability: Where do they live? How long have they lived there? How many times have they moved in the last year? Do they have employment and how often have they changed jobs? How long have they been at present job and how long do jobs normally last?
- Criminal History: Number of arrest and what type of offenses? Have they been or are they on Probation/Parole? Do they have any pending charges anywhere? Does the criminal history involve violent offenses or repeat offenses (DWI, PI, Possession, Shoplifting/Theft)?
- Future Plans: Are there plans to move from the area, find another job, attend trade school or college, enter a rehabilitation program? Find out if there is anything that may take them out of their county of residence or keep them from appearing in court.

Effective Date: February 1, 2013

Trent Farrell
Judge, 52nd District Court

John R. Lee
Judge, Coryell County Court at Law

John E. Firth
Coryell County Judge

John Guinn
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #1

Bill Price
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #2

Coy Latham
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #3

Beverly Jones
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #4