

**WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
WHEN
ILLINOIS
ENDS
MONEY
BOND?**





The Pretrial Fairness Act will end Illinois' use of money bond on September 18, 2023. This law is part of the SAFE-T Act, criminal justice reform legislation passed in response to the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020. In addition to ending money bond, it will overhaul our state's pretrial system. This guide will help ensure you know your rights when the law goes into effect.

Will the police still be allowed to arrest people?

Yes. Police will still make the decision about who to arrest if they suspect someone of breaking the law. For many low-level charges or in situations where a person isn't posing an obvious threat to themselves or anyone around them, police will issue tickets instead of taking people into police custody. Rather than having to pay a fee like you would for a parking ticket, these tickets will have a court date on them requiring you to appear in court on that day in front of a judge.

What will happen if I miss a court date after September 18th?

If you miss a court date, a judge can either let you know that you missed court by sending you a notice or they can issue a warrant for your arrest. If you receive a notice saying you have missed a court date, it is important to resolve the issue as soon as possible to avoid having a warrant issued for your arrest.

If I get arrested, could I still be jailed while awaiting trial?

Yes. Judges will still be able to jail people when they are charged with serious crimes and are found to pose a threat to another person or the community or if they believe a person is likely to flee prosecution. Most people will be released and no one will have to pay a money bond to be released from jail.





What will happen if I'm arrested again after I've been released pretrial for a different charge?

If you are arrested for a new charge while you are already on pretrial release, you can be temporarily jailed. A judge will hold a hearing to decide if you will be jailed until trial or released.

What will happen to people who were jailed before September 18th?

People who were jailed before September 18, 2023 should talk to their lawyers about how the Pretrial Fairness Act will apply to their case. People currently in jail because they cannot afford to pay their bond can ask for a new hearing to consider whether they can be released. If the prosecutor asks the court to keep the person in jail and the judge decides that the accused person is likely to flee prosecution or poses a threat to the community, they will stay in jail. Otherwise, they will be released. The impact on each person's case may be different, so it's important for people in jail to talk to their lawyers.

Could I be arrested for violating the terms of Electronic Monitoring?

Yes. Whenever someone violates the terms of their electronic monitoring, a judge can review the violation and decide on a response, including up to 30 days in jail. Additionally, if someone removes or damages their electronic monitoring device or tries to flee the jurisdiction, they could be charged with a felony called "escape" from electronic monitoring. If you must leave your home while on electronic monitoring, it's important to talk with your lawyer about how to get permission in advance.

What will happen if I violate the rules a judge sets for me before trial?

If you violate the rules a judge sets for you before trial, there may be a hearing to determine what the consequence will be for breaking those rules. That consequence can be a warning, a change in the rules of your release, or up to 30 days in jail. If you are rearrested for a new case before trial, you may be jailed until your trial.



**WANT MORE
INFORMATION?**

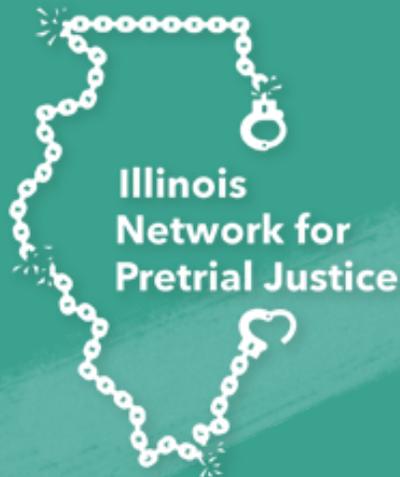
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