



Bail Act 1976

1976 CHAPTER 63

Incidents of bail in criminal proceedings

3 General provisions.

- (1) A person granted bail in criminal proceedings shall be under a duty to surrender to custody, and that duty is enforceable in accordance with section 6 of this Act.
- (2) No recognizance for his surrender to custody shall be taken from him.
- (3) Except as provided by this section—
 - (a) no security for his surrender to custody shall be taken from him,
 - (b) he shall not be required to provide a surety or sureties for his surrender to custody, and
 - (c) no other requirement shall be imposed on him as a condition of bail.
- (4) He may be required, before release on bail, to provide a surety or sureties to secure his surrender to custody.
- (5) ^{F1} . . he may be required, before release on bail, to give security for his surrender to custody.

The security may be given by him or on his behalf.

- (6) He may be required ^{F2}... to comply, before release on bail or later, with such requirements as appear to the court to be necessary ^{F3}...—
 - (a) [^{F4}to secure that] he surrenders to custody,
 - (b) [^{F4}to secure that] he does not commit an offence while on bail,
 - (c) [^{F4}to secure that] he does not interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice whether in relation to himself or any other person,
 - [^{F5}(ca) for his own protection or, if he is a child or young person, for his own welfare or in his own interests,]
 - (d) [^{F4}to secure that] he makes himself available for the purpose of enabling inquiries or a report to be made to assist the court in dealing with him for the offence.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/11/2008. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 March 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

[^{F6}(e) [^{F4}to secure that] before the time appointed for him to surrender to custody, he attends an interview with an authorised advocate or authorised litigator, as defined by section 119(1) of the ^{M1}Courts and Legal Services Act 1990;]

[^{F7}and, in any Act, “the normal powers to impose conditions of bail” means the powers to impose conditions under paragraph (a), (b) [^{F8}, (c) or (ca)] above]

[^{F9}(6ZAA) The requirements which may be imposed under subsection (6) include electronic monitoring requirements.

The imposition of electronic monitoring requirements is subject to section 3AA (in the case of a child or young person), section 3AB (in the case of other persons) and section 3AC (in all cases).

(6ZAB) In this section and sections 3AA to 3AC “electronic monitoring requirements” means requirements imposed for the purpose of securing the electronic monitoring of a person's compliance with any other requirement imposed on him as a condition of bail.]

[^{F10}(6ZA) Where he is required under subsection (6) above to reside in a bail hostel or probation hostel, he may also be required to comply with the rules of the hostel.]

[^{F11}(6A) In the case of a person accused of murder the court granting bail shall, unless it considers that satisfactory reports on his mental condition have already been obtained, impose as conditions of bail—

- (a) a requirement that the accused shall undergo examination by two medical practitioners for the purpose of enabling such reports to be prepared; and
- (b) a requirement that he shall for that purpose attend such an institution or place as the court directs and comply with any other directions which may be given to him for that purpose by either of those practitioners.

(6B) Of the medical practitioners referred to in subsection (6A) above at least one shall be a practitioner approved for the purposes of [^{F12}section 12 of the Mental Health Act 1983].]

[^{F13}(6C) Subsection (6D) below applies where—

- (a) the court has been notified by the Secretary of State that arrangements for conducting a relevant assessment or, as the case may be, providing relevant follow-up have been made for the [^{F14}local justice area] in which it appears to the court that the person referred to in subsection (6D) would reside if granted bail; and
- (b) the notice has not been withdrawn.

(6D) In the case of a person (“P”)—

- (a) in relation to whom paragraphs (a) to (c) of paragraph 6B(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to this Act apply [^{F15}(including where P is a person to whom the provisions of Part 1A of Schedule 1 apply)] ;
- (b) who, after analysis of the sample referred to in paragraph (b) of that paragraph, has been offered a relevant assessment or, if a relevant assessment has been carried out, has had relevant follow-up proposed to him; and
- (c) who has agreed to undergo the relevant assessment or, as the case may be, to participate in the relevant follow-up,

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the court, if it grants bail, shall impose as a condition of bail that P both undergo the relevant assessment and participate in any relevant follow-up proposed to him or, if a relevant assessment has been carried out, that P participate in the relevant follow-up.

(6E) In subsections (6C) and (6D) above—

- (a) “relevant assessment” means an assessment conducted by a suitably qualified person of whether P is dependent upon or has a propensity to misuse any specified Class A drugs;
- (b) “relevant follow-up” means, in a case where the person who conducted the relevant assessment believes P to have such a dependency or propensity, such further assessment, and such assistance or treatment (or both) in connection with the dependency or propensity, as the person who conducted the relevant assessment (or conducts any later assessment) considers to be appropriate in P’s case,

and in paragraph (a) above “Class A drug” and “misuse” have the same meaning as in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and “specified” (in relation to a Class A drug) has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

(6F) In subsection (6E)(a) above, “suitably qualified person” means a person who has such qualifications or experience as are from time to time specified by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this subsection.]

(7) If a parent or guardian of a child or young person consents to be surety for the child or young person for the purposes of this subsection, the parent or guardian may be required to secure that the child or young person complies with any requirement imposed on him by virtue of [F16subsection (6) [F17, (6ZAA)] or (6A) above], but—

- (a) no requirement shall be imposed on the parent or the guardian of a young person by virtue of this subsection where it appears that the young person will attain the age of seventeen before the time to be appointed for him to surrender to custody; and
- (b) the parent or guardian shall not be required to secure compliance with any requirement to which his consent does not extend and shall not, in respect of those requirements to which his consent does extend, be bound in a sum greater than £50.

(8) Where a court has granted bail in criminal proceedings [F18that court or, where that court has [F19committed][F19sent] a person on bail to the Crown Court for trial or to be sentenced or otherwise dealt with, that court or the Crown Court may] on application—

- (a) by or on behalf of the person to whom [F18bail was] granted, or
- (b) by the prosecutor or a constable,

vary the conditions of bail or impose conditions in respect of bail which [F18has been] granted unconditionally.

[F20(8A) Where a notice of transfer is given under [F21a relevant transfer provision], subsection (8) above shall have effect in relation to a person in relation to whose case the notice is given as if he had been committed on bail to the Crown Court for trial.]

[F22(8B) Subsection (8) above applies where a court has sent a person on bail to the Crown Court for trial under section 51 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as it applies where a court has committed a person on bail to the Crown Court for trial.]

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(9) This section is subject to ^[F23]subsection (3) of section 11 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000] (conditions of bail on remand for medical examination).

^[F24](10) This section is subject, in its application to bail granted by a constable, to section 3A of this Act.]

^[F25](10) In subsection (8A) above “relevant transfer provision” means—

- (a) section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987, or
- (b) section 53 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 3(5) repealed (30.9.1998) by 1998 c. 37, ss. 54(1), 120(2), **Sch. 10**; S.I. 1998/2327, **art. 2(3)(n)**
- F2** Words in s. 3(6) repealed (10.4.1995) by 1994 c. 33, ss. 27(2)(a), 168(3), **Sch. 11**; S.I. 1995/721, **art. 2, Sch.** Appendix B
- F3** Words in s. 3(6) repealed (5.4.2004) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), ss. 13(1)(a), 336(3)(4), **Sch. 37 Pt. 2** (with s. 141); S.I. 2004/829, **art. 2(1)(2)(b)(i)(ii)**
- F4** Words in s. 3(6)(a)-(e) inserted (5.4.2004) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), **ss. 13(1)(b)**, 336(3)(4) (with s. 141); S.I. 2004/829, **art. 2(1)(2)(b)**
- F5** S. 3(6)(ca) inserted (5.4.2004) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), **ss. 13(1)(c)**, 336(3)(4) (with s. 141); S.I. 2004/829, **art. 2(1)(2)(b)**
- F6** S. 3(6)(e) inserted (30.9.1998) by 1998 c. 37, **s. 54(2)**; S.I. 1998/2327, **art. 2(1)(n)**
- F7** Words at the end of s. 3(6) inserted (10.4.1995) by 1994 c. 33, **s. 27(2)(b)**; S.I. 1995/721, **art. 2, Sch.**
- F8** Words in s. 3(6) substituted (5.4.2004) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), **ss. 13(1)(d)**, 336(3)(4) (with s. 141); S.I. 2004/829, **art. 2(1)(2)(b)**
- F9** S. 3(6ZAA)(6ZAB) substituted for s. 3(6ZAA) (3.11.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), s. 153(7), **Sch. 11 para. 2**; S.I. 2008/2712, **art. 2, Sch. para. 15**
- F10** S. 3(6ZA) inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), s. 131(1), **Sch. 8 para. 16**
- F11** S. 3(6A)(6B) inserted by Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982 (c. 51, SIF 85), **s. 34(2)**
- F12** Words substituted by Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20, SIF 85), **Sch. 4 para. 46**
- F13** S. 3(6C)-(6F) inserted (5.4.2004) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), **ss. 19(2)**, 336(3)(4) (with s. 141); S.I. 2004/829, **art. 2(1)(2)(b)**
- F14** Words in s. 3(6C)(a) substituted (1.4.2005) by The Courts Act 2003 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/886), **art. 1, Sch. para. 40**
- F15** Words in s. 3(6D)(a) inserted (14.7.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), s. 153(7), **Sch. 12 para. 2**; S.I. 2008/1586, **art. 2(1), Sch. 1 para. 27**
- F16** Words substituted by Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982 (c. 51, SIF 85), **s. 34(3)**
- F17** Words in s. 3(7) inserted (1.3.2002) by 2001 c. 16, **s. 131(3)**; S.I. 2002/344, **art. 2** (with transitional provisions in **art. 4**)
- F18** Words substituted by Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45), **Sch. 12**
- F19** Word in s. 3(8) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), **Sch. 3 para. 48(2)(a)(i)**; S.I. 2005/1267, **art. 2(1)(2)(b)**, **Sch. Pt. 2**; S.I. 2012/1320, **art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3)** (with **art. 5**) (see S.I. 2012/2574, arts. 2(1)(c)(2)(3), 4(2), **Sch.** (with arts. 3, 4) (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, **art. 2**) and S.I. 2013/1103, **art. 4**)
- F20** S. 3(8A) inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1987 (c. 38, SIF 39:1), s. 15, **Sch. 2 para. 9**
- F21** Words in s. 3(8A) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 12(a)**; S.I. 1995/127, **art. 2(1), Sch. 1** Appendix A

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- F22** S. 3(8B) inserted (the insertion being in force 4.1.1999 for the purposes as referred to in S.I. 1998/2327, art. 4(2)(c), **Sch. 2** and otherwise 15.1.2001) by 1998 c. 37, s. 119, **Sch. 8 para. 37**; S.I. 2000/3283, **art. 2(c)**
- F23** Words in s. 3(9) substituted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165(1), 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 51**
- F24** S. 3(10) beginning "This section is" inserted (10.4.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 27(2)(c); S.I. 1995/721, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F25** S. 3(10) beginning "In subsection (8A)" inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 12(b)**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1** Appendix A

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 3(6D) modified (1.12.2005 for specified purposes, 1.4.2007 in so far as not already in force) by **Drugs Act 2005 (c. 17)**, ss. 17(2), 24(3) (with s. 17(4)); S.I. 2005/3053, art. 2(2)(d), S.I. 2007/562, art. 2(2)(d)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1990 c.41.

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