



Association of Louisiana Bail Underwriters

Mastering Bail Enforcement

Correspondence Continuing Education Course
3 Hours of **Bail Enforcement** Credit Upon Successful Completion

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DISCLAIMER

This information is provided to you as guidelines for your Continuing Education ONLY. It is NOT to be construed as Legal advice. For Legal advice, consult your Attorney.

The Business of Bail Recovery / Enforcement

Bounty hunting, or bail enforcement as it is called in the new vernacular, is a contractual undertaking to locate, arrest and return to lawful custody a defendant who has failed to appear for his/her court date at a scheduled time, place and date. It is as simply definable as that. Sometimes they are called Fugitive Recovery Agents or Bail Enforcement Agent or just Recovery Agent but no matter what label is attached to the profession it still boils down to being a Bounty Hunter. A tracker of the most dangerous prey of all . . . a wanted fugitive.

No trade or profession in the United States has more legends attached to it as does that of being a bounty hunter, and while there is an element of truth to all legends, legends of the 'lone wolf bounty hunter tracking down and capturing his man is close to reality.

Bounty hunting is an age old profession wrought with mystique and tempered with much misunderstood and over-hyped stigmas representative of the Good, the Bad and, of course, the Ugly. The only mystique constantly encountered is the fact not everyone has the ability to be a successful bounty hunter and it is, for all intents and purposes, an industry not known to the average John Q. Public. Not known, that is, except for what is regaled by the media and its common practice of intensifying the facts into the realm of the ridiculous. The truth is bounty hunting is 95% sheer boredom with routine tracking practices and 5% terror. It is the terror part that becomes as much a part of man as his every bones and blood. As for bounty hunting being a misunderstood profession . . . absolutely true. The general citizenry has little knowledge of what we are all about and within what perimeters we operate. Bounty hunters in general are regarded as those who appear under the cover of darkness to whisk away a bad guy to collect their reward. There are even a lot of people who have no knowledge that we even exist in this day and age and think all bounty hunters were shot out of their saddles around the turn of the 19th century. You would be amazed at the number of people who think bounty hunters are only the characters portrayed on the televisions and silver screens, giving credence to the overactive mind of a scriptwriter.

Bail enforcement agents in these United States are responsible for approximately 25,000 fugitive apprehensions per year *without any cost to the taxpayer.*

Private contractual agreements between bounty hunters and bail agents (bail bondsmen) is a viable business in the 90's and will continue even into the next century! The difference is, today's bounty hunter possesses the knowledge and tools unknown to our forbearers and we have the technology available to us to advance into all sorts of areas. Bounty hunting is not limited to fugitive recovery. Other paths currently available to bounty hunting is skip tracing, recovering stolen insured property, espousal child kidnapping recovery, uncovering hidden assets for debt collecting and even divorce matters, lost or stolen valuables, et al, et al. Bounty hunting is just that . . . hunting for bounty.

Bounty hunters wear many hats in the pursuit of their duties. If you are going to be successful you will encounter all types of people and all manner of situations; some that will require a sense of coolness while other times you will find you need an immediate attention span of micro seconds to respond effectively to a given act. Your response factor should be a conditioned reflex to the stimuli presented, from reading body language to defending yourself while protecting others at the same time, to having the perseverance and the experiences to safely apprehend your outlaw while minimizing the risk.

Beware of the Rambo-type bounty hunters that are far too often appearing on the skyline. Sometimes we think we have met them all, but then a new one drags himself by and we find ourselves amazed that any bonding company would even give them a case. You know the sort—they dress like a SWAT team member, complete with all the equipment a cop wears and driving a police type vehicle with cage and tear drop light. How they think they can 'blend in' with their environment to conduct a surveillance is beyond us. The bad guys can spot them way down the block, not to mention the local street inhabitants putting the word out the Five-0 is in their neighborhood. They have tales of the many captures they've had, complete with out of the country apprehensions and how they make around \$100,000 per year . . . or more! Yes,

we've heard and seen most of them through the years but we've rarely seen them twice. Seems that type of bail enforcement usually ends up working for an apartment house complex patrolling the parking lot throughout the night.

Then there are always those bonding companies who do not hire the qualified bounty hunter and want to take their chances paying less, while hoping for the same results. It just does not happen that way as they eventually learn when they are recipient of libel suit and sometimes worse . . . perhaps even a wrongful death suit! Bondsmen are in the business of making money, not channeling their cash flow for bounty hunter services. Although we personally save the bail agents lots and lots of money they will still want to get the maximum for the minimum. We have seen too many bonding agents end up spending more than they bargained for in the final analysis. Penny wise and pound-foolish!

The key operative term here is PROFESSIONAL. Your mannerisms are always under scrutiny and your professionalism will be marked with recognition as your fugitive recovery tally mounts.

Which brings us to another point we should make at this time. The jails in the United States are filled to capacity and at any given time there are approximately 200,000 wanted felons on your streets. There are some pretty hefty rewards for capturing some of these fugitives, such as those offered by the Department of Justice and even from the private sector. Law enforcement agencies are sadly understaffed and suffer constant budget restraints inhibiting their fugitive recovery work.

The market for qualified, professional bail enforcement agents is growing each year, which can reap high yield profits for the serious minded agent who is truly a professional in the field. As he gains experience so will he gain recognition and be called upon all the more.

As we close out the twentieth century, bounty hunters are operating in most countries in South America, Europe and elsewhere throughout the world. All are bringing back scores of criminals without costing taxpayers one thin dime.

We have been likened to 'gray patches' of law enforcement, throwbacks to the Wild West when the law was largely enforced by private citizens. Ours is a rich history with its niche firmly set in America's foundation. But, like those before us who suffered a lack of instantly responsive communication, who had to ride horseback over long and uncharted distance while attempting to conduct primitive investigator techniques, we have surfaced to survive as an odd, yet unofficial, arm of the legal system. Our license is in the laws of defining surety arrest and all the many challenges that have only served to fortify the bail industry.

Bounty hunters are, to the legal community, what Federal Express is to the post office; we expedite matters.

We are not attorneys, therefore we do not have the privileges afforded officers of the court; we are not law enforcement, therefore we do not have the legal favors given with the sworn oath of police officers . . . We are bounty hunters. A separate breed of thrill seekers with the authority to arrest a fleeing fugitive and "**.. . we don't got to show you no stinkin' badges!**"

GETTING STARTED: APPRENTICESHIP

Getting started in the bounty hunting business is about as easy as learning to drive a car with only an instruction manual as a guide. We can share all of our experiences and expertise with you on these pages, but until you actually work a case, sit on surveillance and make an arrest you will never learn the business of being a bail enforcement agent. To list all of the do's and don'ts would prove to be a monumental task in the first place and not make too much sense for the fledgling apprentice. The absolute two best ways to enter into bounty hunting is to attend as many related classes (or actual bounty hunter schools or seminars) as possible and to apprentice yourself with a known professional bail enforcement agent for some real on the job training (OJT).

Rarely will you find a successful bail bondsman who will just hand you a contract the moment you walk in the door. You have to be known in the bail enforcement industry. You have to prove yourself to be responsible person capable of handling a case without the bondsman having to post a bail bond to secure your release from jail or, in the bail agent's way of thinking, without causing him some liability, or having to pay the forfeiture because you screwed up the case.

Beware, too, of false advertising for bounty hunting schools that state you will be a certified bail recovery agent upon completion of their course. We have always wondered where the certification stems from and what are their qualifications to pass out a certification. We have asked that question to the ones offering the training and never once have we received a halfway intelligent answer.

The only reputable training available as of this writing is sanctioned by two associations well known throughout the bail industry . . . N.A.F.R.A. (National Association of Fugitive Recovery Agents) and P.B.U.S. (Professional Bail Agents of the United States). We caution the reader against all other claims for 'certification' as a bail enforcement agent. They will offer professionally customized identification packages and even a beautifully colored certificate

with an embossed seal but none of that will get your foot in the door and, quite probably, it will get your foot slammed in the door. If the school or seminar is not endorsed by either N.A.F.R.A. or P.B.U.S., you are best advised to leave it alone as you will only end up wasting your money.

If you can gain the acquaintance of a working bounty hunter, perhaps he or she will allow you to tag-along on a case or two. You may end up watching a back door or baby-sitting a prisoner, or perhaps even being the gopher who makes the coffee run, BUT you will at least BE THERE; that's a whole lot more than many of the so-called 'certified' bounty hunters we have encountered are doing. Just because you have gone on some cases, don't think you then know what you are doing. Until you have personally tracked fugitives and made at least a dozen or more arrests, you are still a fledgling apprentice. Another matter, don't brag in the local pubs and the like about what a great bounty hunter you are and how you can find anybody, anytime, anywhere. The less people who know what you do the better off you will be and you won't be faced with some 'tough guy' wanting to take you outside to test your bravado. Stay safe and stay cool.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS BAIL ENFORCEMENT AGENTS

There are some law enforcement personnel who believe a bounty hunter is the same, or perhaps worse, than the fugitive he is seeking to arrest. You should always be wary of the cop who has an attitude when you approach. Be courteous, polite and present yourself in a professional manner and have all the information available he will request including your own bail enforcement identification accompanied by your driver's license. If you are stopped on the highway by a police officer for a moving violation or merely because the cop was curious, always have both of your hands on the top of the steering wheel as the office approaches; if you are stopped at night turn on the dome light illuminating the interior of the car before placing your hands on the wheel. Turning on the interior light is also applicable when approaching a police cruiser at night to ask directions or to advise them of your presence and purpose. Police love this technique. You will have one foot in the door towards gaining their recognition of you as a professional.

Always, and we cannot stress this enough, report to the law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction you will be working (in many states, it is now a law requiring all bail agents and recovery agents to report their presence and purpose before apprehending their bail skip). We have never found fault with this procedure for several reasons, the most important of which is they will know the neighborhood you will be working. If there is trouble, police response could possibly save your life.

The O.I.C. (Officer in Command), or Watch Commander as they are sometimes called, is the usual contact person you will encounter when checking in. He is the one that will get things done if you approach him in a reasonable and professional manner. Offer to make a coffee run for the officers assigned to station house duty, it tends to subdue and soften any hard edges associated with police meeting a new bounty hunter in their jurisdiction. Present the command personnel with an O.I.C./Dispatcher's Information Sheet (see page 15), which presents the information concerning yourself as bail enforcement agents and all the

information available about the fugitive. Also listed on the Information Sheet is information identifying your vehicle to enable the local police dispatcher to know who you are and in which car you will be conducting your business. This is very necessary in the event a neighborhood crime watch person telephones the police saying you are a 'suspicious person/vehicle' in their neighborhood and they want you checked out. The last thing you need when conducting surveillance is for the beat cop to arrive complete with those blinding blue lights advertising your presence.

Include a color copy of the fugitive's photo(s) attached to the Information Sheet to be left with the local law enforcement agency. But no matter what you do there is sometimes (though a rare occurrence) when you will encounter the one hard head in the whole department who won't assist you no matter what you do. Don't even attempt to get on his good side because he has none. Simply thank the person and get about your business after leaving the Information Sheet with him or his designated person. If you seriously feel you require the police presence/assist in making your arrest just wait until the shift changes and the hard head is gone. Usually you will find a more accommodating attitude with the changing of the guard.

You must always bear in mind that law enforcement personnel have specific rules and regulations governing their workday behavior and have specific guidelines to follow in most matters of procedure. If they have never encountered a bounty hunter (and we have found this to be true many times) you will be hard pressed to convince them of your right to effect a bail arrest. They will want to call the county prosecutor or the department's legal advisor or their immediate supervisor for advice; it is beneficial for just such situations for the bail enforcement agent to have researched a particular foreign state's laws and have the cite reference available to a bewildered officer.

When dealing with police personnel always be patient and respectful. Ensure your paperwork is in proper order and that you are prepared to respond to any questions with precise knowledge of the task at hand. Police personnel are a suspicious breed, so if you hesitate with your

answers or stumble over your words they will immediately be suspect of you and your intended purpose.

Police officers mostly only associate with other police officers. There is a brotherhood of the badge and there is the belief only other police officers understand them or can be trusted. A bail enforcement agent passing through town will not be able to breach this association, so endeavor to maintain a relationship of professionalism instead of endeavoring to convince them you are their new best friend. You will gain respect only from your knowledge, expertise and experience. You will get nowhere being an ass kisser.

It is of the utmost importance to your success to have a working relationship with your local police. This is accomplished through trials and tribulations that only the passing of time can afford to you. Successfully completing a few cases does not automatically qualify you as a professional bail enforcement agent in the eyes of local law enforcement. You will have to work hard to qualify at gaining their respect and this is only accomplished after you have proven yourself time after time, case after case. Sometimes it is only a begrudging respect but they will eventually view you as an ally and not concern themselves with your presence.

Another situation to develop respect is to assist the law enforcement community in locating their own wanted fugitives. This is done by being observant while you are conducting a surveillance and by being aware of the who's who of the streets in your home area. A cellular phone call to the police station describing the scene where you are in observation of so-and-so whom you know has a warrant issued is well appreciated.

Police attitudes are usually tempered with the stimuli presented. It is up to you to promote an aura conducive to your success. Remember, their first impression of you is a lasting impression.

EQUIPMENT

A bail enforcement agent's bag of equipment should primarily consist of the basics: at least two sets of handcuffs, pepper spray, flashlight, and an automobile in perfect working order. This is a minimal listing but will get you started. There is no sense in anyone purchasing a trunk full of state-of-the-art equipment before they even know whether or not they will stay in the bounty hunting business. Too often new people go out and spend hundreds of dollars, even thousand of dollars, for items to adorn an office with which all ends up sitting around gathering dust while they sit around like the *Maytag* repairman . . . no cases to work because they cannot access the industry.

Handcuffs...

The three types of handcuffs on the market today are the more commonly used bicycle chain type, the chain link style, and the newer ones gaining popularity, the hinged cuffs.

We have always preferred the hinged handcuffs for this simple reason: they afford greater control of the bail skip should he decide to balk when being directed. They are also about 10% larger than standard chain handcuffs with approximately 1400 pounds of pressure per square inch. They are of a double hinge design with 20 locking positions affording an inner perimeter of five and three quarter inches to eight inches.

An agent should always carry two sets of handcuffs. If you are faced with an overweight skip, two sets of cuffs (sometimes three sets!) are handy when attaching the skip's wrists together behind his back. Which brings us to another important point . . . endeavor to always correctly attach the handcuffs to the fugitive. This includes double locking the device! The cuffs should be secure enough to thwart sliding out of them but installed below the wrist's radial nerve; if the radial nerve is pinched long enough it can result in permanent physical damage.

Always remember: handcuffs are a temporary restraint device only and should be checked periodically for security during prisoner transport.

Other restraint devices...

'Belly chains' or 'lead chains' (sometimes called 'chain restraint belt') are a useful device when transporting your prisoner; some are adaptable for both front and rear cuffing; securing your skip's wrists to his waist. A leather 'restraint belt' greatly limits your prisoner's hand and arm movement keeping both visible at all times. We DO NOT (never have, never will) condone the use of 'thumb cuffs' for any reason nor under any circumstances.

Chemical Agents .. .

Chemical agents used for self-defense purposes are non-lethal and carried by many people who are concerned for their personal safety. Such chemical irritant sprays are legal in most places, you should check local or state laws before openly showing or using such devices.

Chemical irritants used as a protective device by police personnel were a topic for discussion at the 1986 Attorney General's Conference. These included classes of central nervous system compounds containing **fentanyl**, **ketamine** and stunning compounds such as **BZ**. Some are disorienting to the victim and can cause short-term memory loss. Other agents discussed for possible use were the so-called **peripherally acting** chemicals that include tear gas agents **CN** and **CS (mace)** and **CH**.

Most of the chemical sprays that are anesthetic of the fentanyl group have been met with controversy because though they can effectively immobilize limbs they may also depress respiration.

Another chemical, oleoresin capsicum, derived from cayenne pepper, is already in use by thousands of police departments throughout the country. Its spray causes spasmodic contraction of the eyes as well as coughing, shortness of breath and a gagging sensation in the throat. The pepper spray defense contains an average solution of 5% to 10% oleoresin capsicum and there is even a 15% solution available. It is delivered from the canister in a cone shaped mist with an effective range of about 10 feet. Also available is Pepper Foam. When sprayed it sticks to your bail jumper, then melts as it covers the entire area sprayed. Both varieties have an approximate shelf life of four years.

Especially helpful is the fact that pepper spray does not decompose or degenerate with age. A one second burst to a resisting fugitive's face will dilate the capillaries of his eyes causing temporary blindness. It will also produce the effect of choking, coughing and nausea, and the victim's mucous membranes will sweat preventing all but life support breathing, thereby ending his aggressive and resisting behavior.

All of the above effects will usually disappear within thirty minutes, giving about twenty-nine more minutes than you need to handcuff your now helpless prisoner.

Flashlight...

This is a most adaptable piece of equipment. The most commonly carried flashlight is the MagLite. The MagLite is constructed with an anodized aircraft aluminum casing and a cam action design offering a spot-to-flood beam of light that is 300% brighter than ordinary flashlights when used with a krypton bulb; a krypton bulb burns whiter, longer. Its shockproof lens and heavy-duty casing allows an agent to use the flashlight as a very formidable weapon should some foolish skip come charging forth. Also, never underestimate the power of a strong light to 'freeze' a fugitive in his tracks when aimed directly into his eyes; the shock and confusion factor allows you enough time to accomplish your purpose.

Binoculars...

Binoculars are a useful addition to an agent's cadre of equipment. When conducting surveillance from a distance you will need the eyes of an eagle to absolutely identify your prey. The upper range binoculars afford you this extended vision. We use InstaView (no adjusting viewing clarity) 10 X 50mm binoculars with a waterproof and fog-proof rubber armored body. It has optically clear, bright power that improves your viewing capability ten fold — allowing us a 37-foot field at 1,000 yards.

BADGES AND IDENTIFICATION

A bail enforcement agent does not need a badge to symbolize his/her authority, though most of us have them. Although they are not issued by bail bondsmen, many people believe that bondsmen do issue badges. The bail enforcement agent's authority is represented by the surety's authorization to act as his agent, and is further fortified when accompanied by a certified copy of the bail bond. That's all the proof of authority a bounty hunter needs, and that's all he gets.

It is illegal throughout the United States to possess a badge that depicts any state or federal seal or logo if you are not affiliated with any of its agencies. The same illegality applies to printed credentials. You cannot 'misrepresent' yourself by possessing or displaying either form of identification. You can, however, have a badge and credentials stating exactly what it is you're representing, provided you don't use a badge in a 'flashing' mannerism to give the impression you are a law enforcement officer. Prosecutors do not look kindly on such actions by bounty hunters . . . get the message?

There are companies that produce good quality badges with center seals that are legal looking, yet will not get you in the slammer. You can order custom made badges with Bail Enforcement Agent stamped in the metal. A badge can be made to order with anything on it you want, but do not have one that will only serve to complicate your life should you have to display it for inspection by anyone.

An identification card is another credential you can have made to order. However, the N.A. F. R.A. awards the most professional looking identification in the business to its members. N.A. F. R.A. members are usually recognized by the law enforcement community throughout the United States.

Business cards as identifications are somewhat controversial. A bail enforcement agent's business card should read exactly that: BAIL ENFORCEMENT AGENT .. • not Bounty Hunter or Have Gun, Will Travel or Gun For Hire or any number of other absurd and equally ridiculous statements (this

includes logos that depict violence, guns, etc.) which have been imprinted on the cards of a few self-styled (and mentally deficient) bounty hunters around the country. They are little more than dangerous `wannabes' and their business card is evidence enough that they cannot even begin to qualify as a professional bail enforcement agent.

A professional bounty hunter's business card does not reflect any idiotic phrases and descriptions. The business cards state the facts with name (either business or personal), address and/or contact numbers. Some have associated logos such as handcuffs or personalized logo, while others have the Taintor vs. Taylor* ruling imprinted on the reverse side of the card allowing for instant referral. Some list other services available (some of which aren't applicable anyway, such as cross border operations).

Badges, accompanied with a complimenting identification folio, give a professional image provided both are used within the framework of common sense and the law (now there's an oxymoron).

"When bail is given, the principal is regarded as delivered to the custody of his sureties. Their dominion is a continuance of the original imprisonment. Whenever they choose to do so, they may seize him and deliver him up in their discharge, and if that cannot be done at once, they may imprison him until it can be done. They may exercise their rights in person or by agent. They may pursue him into another state; may arrest him on the Sabbath; and if necessary, may break and enter his house for that purpose. The seizure is not made by virtue of due process. None is needed. It is likened to the re-arrest, by the sheriff, of an escaping prisoner."

OFFICER IN CHARGE - DISPATCHER INFORMATION SHEET

ATTENTION:

The below named agent(s) will be conducting a search and/or surveillance in your district to locate and apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, the within named and described fugitive. Any courtesies and assistance your department may extend will be appreciated.

Agent(s) Name(s): _____

Agent(s) Vehicle(s): _____

Bail Bond Company: _____

Surveillance Area(s): _____

FUGITIVE INFORMATION:

Primary Name: _____ **AKA:** _____

DOB: _____ **Wgt:** _____ **Height:** _____ **Color Eyes:** _____ **Color Hair:** _____

Social Security #: _____ **Driver's License #:** _____ **State:** _____

Scars/Marks/Tattoos: _____

Last Known Address: _____

In Company Of: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Motor Vehicle Make: _____ **Model:** _____ **Color:** _____

Registration #: _____ **State:** _____ **Registered To:** _____

Address: _____

Wanted By: _____

Offense(s): _____

Warrant-Docket #: _____ **NCIC#:** _____

ADDITIONAL: _____

Social Security Numbers

The first social security number was issued in 1936; over 300 million numbers have been assigned since then with the nine-digit format allowing for about 1,000,000,000 available numbers that can be allotted to individuals. Since the social security number is used by nearly everyone these days; from banks to credit card companies, from employment applications to tax records to various state licenses (including driver licenses), it is important for the bail enforcement agent to identify whether his fugitive has falsified his social security number. This is easily learned once you understand the formats of the numbering system.

Social security numbers are broken down into three parts: The first three digits display where the applicant first applied for his/her number (before 1972) or resided (1972). This fact will provide an area to search for your bail skip or to obtain birth, marriage or divorce records, family members, schools attended or even old friends who may have stayed in touch through the years. You will also detect if a twenty year-old gave you a number that was issued 30 years ago indication of him falsifying his social security number and saving you the search.

The second two numbers in the format is termed the 'group number;' this determines when the number was issued. Though there is the possibility the group number could range from 01-99, the two digit center numbers are issued in a special order as follows:

1. First, all odd numbers below 10 (01, 03, 05, 07 & 09).
2. Then all even numbers are 10 and above (10, 12, 14 through 98).
3. Now all even numbers are below 10 (12, 04, 06, 08).
4. Finally all odd numbers are above 10 (11, 13, 15 through 99).

The last four numbers are called the 'serial number' and can range from 0001 through 0009. They are assigned in order with each assigned group number; meaning, before any consecutive group number can be assigned all of the serial numbers for the previous group

number must be exhausted. As an example: if the group number is 02, and the serial number is 0001, then the next number would be XXX-02-0002. There is no deviation from this pattern.

Bear in mind that 99% of your fugitives would not have been issued a number within the past few years. Also, area numbers between 700 and 728 have all been issued so any social security numbers with different group numbers than are listed is invalid (falsified).

SOCIAL SECURITY
STATE ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CHART

USE THIS CHART TO DETERMINE STATE OF ISSUANCE

The First Three (3) Digits of a Social Security Number determine the State or Territory of Residency of the Applicant at the time of issuance of the Social Security Number. For Example: The number 254-00-0000 indicates a Georgia resident at the time of issuance.

001-003	New Hampshire
001-003	Maine
008-009	Vermont
008-009	Massachusetts
035-039	Rhode Island
040-049	Connecticut
050-134	New York
135-158	New Jersey
159-211	Pennsylvania
212-220	Maryland
221-222	Delaware
223-231	Virginia
237-246	North Carolina
232-236	West Virginia
247-251	South Carolina
252-260	Georgia
261-267 & 589-595	Florida
268-302	Ohio
303-317	Indiana
318-361	Illinois
362-386	Michigan
387-399	Wisconsin
400-407	Kentucky
408-415	Tennessee
416-424	Alabama
425-428 & 587-588	Mississippi
429-432	Arkansas
433-439	Louisiana
440-448	Oklahoma
449-467 & 627-645	Texas
468-477	Minnesota
478-485	Iowa
486-500	Missouri
501-502	North Dakota
503-504	South Dakota
505-508	Nebraska
509-515	Kansas
516-517	Montana
518-519	Idaho

520	Wyoming
521-524	Colorado
525, 585 & 648-649	New Mexico
526-527 & 600-601	Arizona
528-529 & 646-647	Utah
530	Nevada
531-539	Washington
540-544	Oregon
545-573 & 602-626	California
574	Alaska
575-576	Hawaii
577-579	District of Columbia
581-584 & 596-599	Puerto Rico
586	Guam
586	American Samoa
586	Philippine Islands
700-728	Railroad Employees

650-699

unassigned, for future use

700-728 Railroad workers through 1963, then discontinued

729-799 unassigned, for future use

800-999 not valid SSNs.

Some sources have claimed that numbers above 900 were used when some state programs were converted to federal control, but current SSA documents claim no numbers above 799 have ever been used.

TRACKING YOUR FUGITIVE

Skip tracing by a bail enforcement agent differs somewhat from skip tracing conducted by a bill collector or a private investigator. Bail enforcement agents are tracking a wanted fugitive while bill collectors and private investigators usually track people being sought for monies owed or a civil matter pending before the courts. The routines are similar but the nuts and bolts of the matter take an alternate shape.

Fugitives are basically creatures of habit. Sometimes a check on an address change will produce information where the outlaw moved to; this method is more often used to locate the fugitive's girlfriend or, significant other, as so many of them receive public assistance or social security checks on a monthly basis. Fugitives per se could care less about their mail; it is usually only notices of court appearance anyway.

To successfully track a fugitive, an agent needs to be highly creative, boldly innovative and extremely resourceful. Case in point: While going through the trash left behind by one of our fleeing outlaws we found where he had thrown the phone book away buried under empty beer cans and other assorted debris. The back cover was littered with names and numbers. A systematic calling of the listings provided us with information our skip was in Quincy, Massachusetts working for a construction company (we later learned he was employed there under an assumed name).

If an agent is able to obtain the names and telephone numbers of a fugitive's distant relatives it is a definite plus towards realizing the goal for capture. A telephone call to a far away relative (they are usually unaware their kinfolk is a fugitive) often provides an agent with enough information to fill in some of the gaps and assist in figuring out where the bad guy wandered to. We have telephoned relatives with a number of ploys, one of which we are particularly fond of is playing the role of a former employer seeking to rehire the bail skip (with added comments how he was one of our best workers, etc.). This is an especially effective scam when referencing the construction trades. Everyone wants his or her relatives to be gainfully employed. Practice makes perfect and you'll have to feel out the conversation before you can ask the pertinent questions concerning the skip's whereabouts.

If a fugitive is married (or even separated or divorced) the in-laws are an excellent source of information. Rare is the occasion where in-laws appreciate your bad guy taking their

'little girl' or their 'little boy' astray with their illegal activities and ongoing criminal lifestyle. Most times they can't tell you enough and will want to assist you in making the capture. It is important a field agent evaluates the in-laws motives for wanting the fugitive captured. Ensure they are not merely 'setting you up' with a smoke trail and tracking your moves to allow for the outlaw to escape via a back door situation.

Once you have established your Judas has provided credible assistance you must always **protect your informant**. An untrustworthy agent will get nowhere in the long run and you will be amazed how quickly word gets around. It is paramount to an agent's success to cultivate a string of informants in his/her home area. This listing would include prostitutes, taxi drivers, grocery store owners and employees, winos (to a degree), pizza delivery drivers and even elderly people who sit on their steps with retirement attitudes. These people are usually well aware of who is in their area and who is doing what to whom and when they are doing it. Our favorites are prostitutes and pizza delivery personnel. Prostitutes see everyone during the course of their role as a strolling hostess, and pizza people deliver to every type of residence imaginable (motels, drug houses, apartment complexes, for a few). Also pizza houses have a computer listing of all their delivery addresses and nearly every soul on earth loves pizza. Get the picture? An agent's ability to establish reliable informants on his roster is tantamount to success in the bail enforcement trade provided the informant is treated with the utmost in **confidentiality**. It can be one of his most valuable tools.

An important by-product of fugitive tracking is being able to adapt to your immediate physical environment, we call it **the blending-in** process. Variations of the blending-in technique depend on the agent's **ingenuity** and **resourcefulness**. It is obvious you don't use a new car in a run down neighborhood to effect a surveillance; nor do you use a beat up looking car in an affluent neighborhood. There can be no excuse for losing your prey merely because you were spotted for being alien to the environs of the search area. **Adaptability** is the question, **common sense** is the answer.

We cannot stress the importance of common sense. Example: We once had the misfortune to assist an out of town bounty hunter who was always in a hurry with very little accomplished for his fervor. While on surveillance with this self-styled agent he became very restless after only a couple of hours watching the suspected residence of his bail jumper. He suggested we sneak onto the target property and cut the cable wire, and then knock on the door stating we were sent by the cable company to repair the problem. In the

first place, to get a cable repairman to your home to correct interrupted service demands an appointment and could take a day or two before they can be scheduled to arrive within a certain time frame. Anyone with cable service knows that. You don't even want to know my remarks to the out of town bail enforcement agents. Suffice to say it is idiots like him who are cause for concern in the bail industry.

An agent can never have enough geographical knowledge and should be as familiar as possible with local establishments such as barrooms and social centers, areas of drug related activity (this can be updated from news accounts of raids, etc., as these areas are constantly changing), and place most frequented by night people (most of my captures have been made after dark). This will include similar areas in nearby towns/cities as well. Many fugitives who reside in smaller communities think they need only to travel to the nearest large city where they will be able to hide (most bail fugitives are caught within fifty miles of their home area). What they have always failed to realize is they can run but they cannot hide . . . a least not for very long from the professional bail enforcement agent.

If used correctly, the most valuable tool of all in an agent's bag of tricks is the telephone. The phone can be your best friend or it can be your worse enemy.

Case in point: We once had a case where we had exhausted every avenue imaginable lead towards capturing a particularly evasive bail jumper. Time was running out fast and we certainly didn't want to report to the bond agency that we could not locate a skip from our own home area. On a whim, we went to the county jail where our skip had been bailed from, and checked the visitor's log (every jail house keeps records of inmate visitors, complete with addresses and sometimes telephone numbers). There was listed our new resource . . . his grandmother. Elated, we telephoned Granny introducing myself as Reverend Allen (a ploy we frequently use with the elder relatives of a bail skip). We related to the aged woman we had met her grandson when he was incarcerated and found many 'redeeming qualities' in her wayward grandchild. Further, that he was " . . . not like most of the others" and he " . . . impressed us as basically a very good man who was merely led astray by the ills of our society;" every grandmother in the world loves her grandchild and open-heartedly welcomes any praise of him/her . . . especially from a man of the cloth. It worked. Granny told us her grandson had moved in with her a few days ago and had started a new job as a painter and was 'doing good.' We expressed how grateful we should be to God that He reached out and saved the boy from the evils that previously had awaited him (we nearly suggested granny and we say a prayer of thanks for the salvation her grandson had received). We went on to tell granny we had recently been stationed in her area and

we would love to see her grandson again. She told us he would be home around 6:00 PM and that she would tell him we had called. "No, no," we said. "We'll stop by later in the evening if that would be convenient, and surprise him " Old granny said that would be just fine. At 5:00 PM we were parked up the street from granny's house and at 5:45 PM we spotted our quarry walking towards home. At 5:50 PM he was in custody and on the way back to the county lockup where he could receive more religious training.

The telephone should be regarded as you would regard a partner, without whom you would be lost and you might as well seek another source of employment and adventure. After a while you will develop your own techniques and styles with phone usage. The amount of information you can obtain over the telephone is limitless and you can be anyone you say you are over the telephone that is, if you use it wisely and with forethought. Skip tracing is more than 50% telephone work and, in most instances, if you are proficient, you can get an idea where your bounty is.

Each and every case will be different with formatted similarities. It is rare two similar cases will have the same outcome despite the familiarity with the other. Each situation will fluctuate in comparison and there is no rule of text to learn when and how to proceed. We have always suggested you learn what not to do and the what to do will safely follow. **Common sense, intuition** and **experience** will be your primary teacher.

Once you have located your outlaw make sure you have the right person before you put the Habeas Grabus on him/her! Unlawful arrest or detention of an innocent person can lead to a whole variety of legal difficulties and probably cause your own arrest, not to mention giving your savings account, and perhaps all future profits to a competent attorney to represent you at your trial. Do your homework thoroughly. Bail skips have been known to change their appearance making identity difficult. Women are especially adept at altering their physical appearance and can change so much they could walk right by you and you would not recognize them (remember, all you have to work with is a rather ruddy photograph usually taken when a person looks their worse after being arrested or bailed); one bail skip we know shaved his entire head and even his eyebrows before nearly walking by us sporting a newly acquired deep tan. Be aware of your skip's physical characteristics and learn to concentrate on the area around the eyes on the photograph (the eyes are where people first look when confronted by an individual). Ensure you memorize any known scars, marks or tattoos as listed on the bail application or on the booking sheet at the arresting agency. Also note the fugitive's handwriting style (a copy of the signature can be found on all the bail bond applications) as this may come in handy when

checking motel/hotel registers in the likely event your bad guy checked in under an assumed name.

An applicable example is the Alaska case. Upon capture of our skip, he adamantly refused to admit his real name. He even present a non-driver identification issued to the name of Kevin Fiske by the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles - only the day before we caught up with him. The photo we had of our bail jumper definitely resembled this Kevin Fiske character even though Fiske had lighter colored hair (it was dyed). We handed Mr. Fiske paper and pen and told him to prove he wasn't our bail jumper by writing his name three times in succession and without hesitation. He complied. Kevin Fiske's style of signature was very similar to the signature of the bail jumper we had traveled so far to retrieve. We then searched his wallet and found a small scrap of paper folded inside. The first three digits of the telephone number were the same as the home area for my skip. We dialed the number adding the area code and the call was answered by a very sleepy sounding older man who was not appreciative of a call in the middle of the night (I had forgotten the time difference). When we asked if he knew my bail jumper, the man came immediately awake and negatively responsive, with a few expletives, at the hearing the name of the fugitive. We had called the father the girl the skip had been courting before his departure, and who did not at all want his daughter involved with the rascal. That cinched it more than the signature writing. We had the right guy after all. Fiske then relented and confessed he was the one we had been searching for but he couldn't believe we had gone all the way to Alaska to get him.

As a bail enforcement agent you will eventually settle into your own style and schedule for retrieving your fugitive. Our tracking procedures will vary but will remain within uniform guidelines of facts. The trick is to eliminate the negative information as it develops and accentuate the positive information as you adapt to its perimeters.

The listing below is more than you will probably need in your quest, but includes the information to lead you to a successful completion of the task at hand.

- Subject's full name (to include nickname, street name, alias or maiden name);
- Last know address (also previous addresses);
- Date and place of birth;
- Physical statistics (height, weight, color eyes/hair, scars/marks/tattoos, etc.);
- Social Security number (union number, driver's license number, etc.);
- Trade or occupation (special skills, special licenses);

- Last known employer (previous employers);
- Immediate family members (addresses, telephone numbers);
- Non-Immediate family members (in-laws, uncles/aunts, grandparents, etc.);
- Significant other (names, addresses, employment info.);
- Friends (names and addresses);
- Ex-significant others (previous loves, ex in-laws);
- Children(s) name and addresses (schools, custody status, bonding or non-bonding relationships, support);
- Vehicle information;
- Substance abuser;
- Military service;
- Financial (bank accounts, credit cards, monthly allotment for welfare, etc.);
- Subject last seen where (with whom).

ATTENTION: This listing is not all-inclusive, but merely a guideline. You will add your own criteria as you gain experience.

SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance is the nemesis of a bail enforcement agent, requiring long hours of sitting and waiting and watching. It is the most tedious part of bounty hunting you will ever experience. Sometimes only a matter of minutes or hours is required but, most likely, you could spend all day or even several days in a surveillance mode; fugitives aren't the most accommodating people.

Patience is the key operative word for a successful surveillance. If you become impatient and leave your surveillance point that is usually when the fugitive will show up . . . like staying home waiting for a particular telephone call, soon as you leave the call comes in.

You should also be prepared for the long watch. Being prepared begins with your own personal comfort, meaning, be careful what you eat and drink. Odds are you will not be near a rest room so eat little and drink even less, minimizing stress on your kidneys and bowels. A wide-mouth plastic bottle (like an empty milk container) is an essential item to have handy during the surveillance, and we know for a fact women can also use the bottle for urinating purposes although many will argue the point.

If sitting in a car night, do not smoke. The glare from your cigarette will serve as a bright beacon of light through the darkness.

Before you begin your surveillance, and if practical, you should survey the surrounding area with a 'drive through' to locate the best possible vantage point, being one where you will draw the least amount of attention from the inhabitants of the area. Our experience has been that most surveillance is conducted in residential neighborhoods, oftentimes areas that afford very little with keeping a low profile. If this is the case you will have to effect a blending-in process with the environment. Your mode of dress should be consistent with the local populace and your vehicle should be one that will not draw attention from passers by.

We keep our hair short allowing us to wear wigs with relative comfort and ease. Whenever we have to penetrate the more shoddy of the inner city neighborhoods we've been known to don a disguise for that purpose. A much-used favorite of mine is that of a wino or homeless person. To effect such a disguise we wear an old, misshapen baseball type hat

(sometimes worn backwards) over an unkempt wig of long (stringy) hair. An old stained Army style coat is next with laceless and scarred work boots we can shuffle along in. Eating popcorn leaves a nice mess on your teeth giving the impression you have no use for dental hygiene and, of course, the ever present wine bottle with a brown paper bag tightly wrapped around it. For effect, you can add baby oil splashed all over your crotch giving the impression you missed the urinal. With this outfit we can sit for hours on end anywhere we choose to sit and no one will bother you; sometimes the beat cop will appear and tell you to move along. We ask you ... who would ever expect a wino to all of a sudden jump up and arrest someone?

Creativity is another key operative word when enlisting a disguise to access the area you will be working. The listing of disguises is long and can include such as a salesman, a survey person, a Jehovah Witness (or other religious sect) recruiting converts, a blind man, a crippled man, and so on. We have even stationed female agents in areas not suitable to surveillance where they posed as hookers and could watch the street for our bail skip. The most adaptable vehicle for surveillance purposes is a van. The vehicle should have tinted windows or dark curtains covering the windows, and a draw type curtain which can be opened or closed at will to prevent anyone from seeing through the windshield to the rear of the van. A van will also house all your equipment out of sight. Ensure you don't display a lot of antennas that would alert people to the fact your van is quite different from all others. Magnetic signs are a plus . . . one innovative bounty hunter I know advertises with magnetic signs of Video House Calls and another with Jack's Pest Control. Throw on a ladder or two and there you have it . . . instant acceptance into the neighborhood.

Always endeavor to conduct your surveillance nearest the point where you think your skip will appear to afford the shortest distance between your vehicle and the point where you will first confront your fugitive. As you exit your vehicle ensure the interior lights do not come on when you open the door to illuminate you and draw unnecessary attention to the van or car.

With a passenger automobile, the blending-in process is a little more difficult but some common sense tips listed here will down play your presence:

- Sit on the passenger side as if you are waiting for the driver to return;
- If there are two of you, one sits in the rear behind the driver's seat;
- Read while you sit using your side vision at all times;
- Raise the hood of the car as if you have mechanical trouble;

- Park in front of a tenement house and start cleaning/waxing your vehicle giving the impression you live there or you are visiting for the afternoon;
- If you are really desperate for a ploy open your trunk and sell some trinkets you can purchase.

Again, creativity will prevent the street inhabitants from thinking you are a narc and burning your presence amongst them. Also, don't forget to check in with local law enforcement and advise them of your surveillance area before proceeding.

Surveillance is a necessary evil, but once you have mastered the blending-in skills, and if you are patient enough to maintain your vigil, and experienced enough not to get caught in your disguise, your success rate in capturing bad guys will make it all worthwhile.