

YOUR CLIENT IS BEING RELEASED! NOW WHAT?

This document is for attorneys whose client is being released on parole or bond while their underlying removal case is still ongoing. For people released while their case is on appeal or after a final order of removal, please speak to your mentor.

When your client has been granted bond

Congratulations! You've successfully obtained bond for your client.

First, you need to post the bond:

Your client's sponsor, friend, or family member hopefully has the money for the bond and can post it. Bond for immigration cases must be posted *in their full amount* (unlike in a criminal case, where a percentage can be posted using a bail bondsman. There are immigration bondsmen, but we only recommend using them as a very last resort). If you're advising your client's community on how to post the bond, here's what you need to know:

- a. The person posting the bond must be a US citizen or green card-holder and will need to bring proof of that (a passport or green card) to the office where they post the bond.
- b. There is a list of ICE offices that accept bond payments. The person posting the bond can take the payment to any of these offices regardless of where your client is detained. That list can be found here: <https://www.ice.gov/ice-ero-bond-acceptance-facilities> Note that like everything else, COVID-19 may affect when these offices are open. We suggest calling first to get that information.

If your client's family/sponsor/friends cannot afford to post the bond, please contact your mentor. There are bond funds across the country that may be able to help.

For clients released on bond or parole

Arranging for transportation for your client from the detention center to their sponsor:

In many cases, ICE will do nothing more than let the client out the front door of the detention center (sometimes they will take your client to the closest bus station, check with your client's Deportation Officer). You may need to help your client figure out how to get from the detention center to their sponsor.

What to do here varies detention center by detention center. If your client needs help with getting from the detention center to the bus station, in some areas there are local immigrant rights groups who will help with that transportation. The best way for your client to travel to a sponsor is by bus. This is because your client will likely not be

released with any formal identification, so traveling my airplane, while not impossible, takes many more steps. The best way to get your client a bus ticket is for the sponsor to purchase that bus ticket ahead of time from the bus station closest to the detention center to their destination. You can purchase bus tickets that are not for specific times or that can be used any time during a specific day. You may be able to use your client's Deportation Officer as a go-between to get the ticket information to your client, otherwise, when the sponsor purchases the ticket, they should ask how they can convey the ticket to a person in another place (usually, they can just give a confirmation number to your client who can use that at the bus station on their end). As always, ask your mentor if you get stuck.

What to do for your client's removal case

You've probably realized that somehow your client's removal case needs to get moved from the court it was in while your client was detained to the court near where he is going to be when he's released. There are *two steps* to getting venue changed: a change of address form to the court, and a Motion to Change Venue. If you were only representing your client in their bond or parole request, you can't formally file the Motion to Change Venue yourself without entering an appearance in (and thus being on the hook for) the removal case. You can, however, help your client fill out the change of address form and a pro se Motion to Change Venue, if you feel comfortable doing so.

The change of address form (with the appropriate address for each court) is available here: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/form-eoir-33-eoir-immigration-court-listing>

A pro se Motion to Change Venue is available on our website here:
<https://immigrationjustice.us/get-trained/bond/after-the-bond-hearing/>

Usually, a case will automatically be moved from a court's detained docket to their non-detained docket, but sometimes there is a glitch. You need to file the Motion to Change Venue and make sure it has been granted before your client's next court date. If you look your client's case up on the case status lookup page and there is no next hearing set, look at the address of the court and compare it to the addresses at the Justice.gov address above to give you an idea if the case has already been moved to a new court.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How can I help my client get a lawyer for their removal case in their new location?

A: You can search for non-profit legal service organizations by state here:
<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>

2. My client's sponsor is in one state, but now s/he wants to go to live in a different one. Is that a problem?

A: Your client (and, in the case of bond, the sponsor as well) has committed to ICE that they are moving to a specific ICE jurisdiction. While they can move, they should tell ICE their doing so. The best advice is to tell your client to contact the ICE office in the jurisdiction that they were going to move to, and ask permission to move to a different jurisdiction. For example, if your client was detained in Louisiana, and his sponsor is in Houston, Texas, but now he wants to move in with other friends in Cincinnati, he should contact the ICE office in Houston to ask if he can move. **This is especially important for people who have ordered ICE check-ins**, but is best practice for everyone.

If the **sponsor** in a bond case (the person who actually posted the bond) changes their address, they are also supposed to file a change-of-address form with ICE. That form can be found here: <https://www.ice.gov/doelib/forms/i333.pdf>

4. Will the sponsor ever get the bond money back?

A: Yes, when the removal case is completed, the sponsor can file a form at an ICE office to request the return of the bond amount.