

The Right to Reclaim Your Immigration Bond Money

Do I Qualify?

1. Did you pay[†] money directly to the Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**) / Immigration and Customs Enforcement (**ICE**) to release someone from detention while their immigration case was pending?
 - **IF YES**, you are considered the bond's **obligor**. You may be able to reclaim your payment.
 - **IF INSTEAD** you paid money to a **surety company** (Gonzalez y Gonzalez, Libre by Nexus), your payment to the company is likely not refundable.
 - [†] "Pay" means posting money directly to an ICE office ("ICE ERO"). While many may contribute money toward a bond payment, only the one who submits the money to ICE is the obligor. Undocumented individuals who contact ICE, even to inquire about a separate person's bond, may be subject to detention and removal.
2. Did the individual whose bond you paid comply with all ICE and/or Immigration Court instructions, including those listed on the bond contract?
 - **IF YES**, the bond may be considered **cancelled**, usually once the individual's case has ended. Obligors can only reclaim their payment once a bond has been cancelled.
 - **IF INSTEAD** the individual missed a check-in, court hearing, or similar event, the bond may be considered **breached**. A breached bond generally means DHS keeps your bond money.
3. Did you receive a **Notice of Cancellation** from DHS / ICE?
 - **IF YES**, this likely means you may reclaim your payment. **IF INSTEAD** you have not received any notices, you should not assume that DHS is entitled to keep your money. Contact information for the ICE Field Offices can be found here: <https://www.ice.gov/contact/ero>

How Do I Reclaim My Bond Money?

1. If the bonded individual has obtained legal status in the United States OR has been deported:
 - When the bond is cancelled, ICE will send **Form I-391 ("Notice of Immigration Bond Cancelled")** to the address you listed on the bond contract.
 - Mail **Form I-391** and your original copy of **Form I-305 ("Receipt of Immigration Officer")** to:

Debt Management Center
Attention: Bond Unit
P.O. Box 5000
Williston, VT 05495-5000

When the Debt Management Center receives your forms, it will process your refund (amount paid plus any interest earned) by mail. This process generally takes about four weeks.

For questions about your bond refund, call the Debt Management Center at **(802) 288-7600**.

2. If you DO NOT have your original **Form I-305**, you must:
 - Print out **Form I-395 (Affidavit in Lieu of Lost Receipt)**, available at: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/library/forms/pdf/i395.pdf>
 - Bring the printed form with you to a notary public, where you will sign and notarize the form. Mail the signed and notarized **Form I-395** and **Form I-391** to the Debt Management Center address listed above.

If the bonded individual left the United States BEFORE their removal proceedings ended or left the country on a voluntary departure order from an immigration judge, you still may be able to reclaim your payment. Visit <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/immigration-bond-how-get-your-money-back> for more information.

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