



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF
CONTRA COSTA**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Contra Costa Superior Court Announces New Bail Schedule and
Pre-Arrestment Release Protocols**

Contra Costa Superior Court is pleased to announce its revised bail schedule and pre-arrestment release protocol, to become effective **July 8, 2026**. On that date, the schedule will be available at <https://contracosta.courts.ca.gov>. The Court is extremely grateful to the many local law enforcement agencies and justice partners who worked collaboratively with staff over the last several months to develop and refine this schedule.

The purpose of bail is to ensure arrestees appear for hearings and to reduce safety risks to the public and victims. The California Constitution entitles most arrestees to be released on bail while awaiting trial and prohibits excessive bail. The constitutional principles guiding judges in setting bail are the protection of the public, safety of the victim, seriousness of the offense charged, previous criminal records of the arrestee, and the probability of the arrestee appearing at court hearings.

The California Supreme Court has held that conditioning release from custody solely on whether an arrestee can afford bail is unconstitutional. It held that a system allowing release for arrestees who could afford bail while denying it those who could not, without analysis of their relative public safety risks and even if they were likely to return to Court, offended principles of equal protection and due process. And it instructed trial courts to impose the least restrictive conditions of release for defendants and to consider whether non-financial conditions of release may reasonably protect the public and the victim or reasonably assure the defendant's presence at trial. And very recently, in *In re Kowalczyk*, the California Supreme

Court reaffirmed that “pretrial liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception.”

Recognizing this, the Court’s newly adopted felony and misdemeanor bail schedules include a Pre-Arrestment Release Protocol (PARP) governing whether eligible arrestees in Contra Costa County are released from custody without conditions, released with nonfinancial conditions, or held in custody pending arraignment. Arrestees charged with certain non-violent, non-serious felony and misdemeanor offenses will fall within one of two categories – Cite and Release (CR) or Book and Release (BR). CR arrestees will be cited and released on their own recognizance with a promise to appear at arraignment at the time of arrest. BR arrestees will be released following booking at a police station or other facility. Both will be released without bail being required.

PARP does not permit CR or BR in certain circumstances. Individuals arrested for serious or violent crimes designated by the California Constitution or Penal Code section 1270.5 remain ineligible for pre-arrestment release. As provided by Penal Code section 1270.1, individuals arrested for serious or violent felonies may post money bail for pre-arrestment release, but are not eligible for CR or BR. Arrestees who are on felony probation, parole, post-release community supervision, or mandatory supervision at the time of arrest are likewise ineligible for CR or BR.

Pursuant to applicable law, release conditions for arrestees are subject to reconsideration by a judicial officer at arraignment. At that time, a judicial officer will exercise their discretion to determine bail and release conditions necessary to protect public safety and ensure the arrestee’s return to court.

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