

Bond Hearing Checklist

Essential Documents & Evidence for Your Immigration Bond Hearing

IMPORTANT: Your One Chance at Freedom

A bond hearing is often your only opportunity to secure release from detention. The judge will evaluate two main factors: (1) whether you are a flight risk, and (2) whether you pose a danger to the community. Gathering strong evidence for both factors is critical to your success.

1. Identity & Immigration Documents

- ☐ Valid passport or travel document
- ☐ Birth certificate (with certified translation if not in English)
- ☐ Any prior immigration documents (visa, I-94, work permits)
- ☐ A-Number documentation
- ☐ Notice to Appear (NTA)
- ☐ Any prior immigration court decisions

2. Evidence of Community Ties (Flight Risk)

- ☐ Proof of U.S. residence (lease, mortgage, utility bills)
- ☐ Employment verification letter from employer
- ☐ Recent pay stubs (last 3-6 months)
- ☐ Tax returns (last 2-3 years)
- ☐ Bank statements showing financial stability
- ☐ Property ownership documents
- ☐ Children's birth certificates (if U.S. citizen children)
- ☐ Children's school enrollment records
- ☐ Marriage certificate (if married to U.S. citizen/resident)
- ☐ Church or community organization membership letters
- ☐ Volunteer work documentation

3. Character & Rehabilitation Evidence

- ☐ Letters of support from family members
- ☐ Letters of support from employers
- ☐ Letters from community leaders, clergy, or teachers
- ☐ Certificates of completion (education, training programs)
- ☐ Rehabilitation program certificates (if applicable)
- ☐ Counseling or therapy records (if applicable)
- ☐ Evidence of community service

4. Criminal History Documentation

- ☐ Certified court dispositions for all arrests/convictions
- ☐ Proof of sentence completion (probation, parole)
- ☐ Letters from probation/parole officers
- ☐ Evidence of rehabilitation since conviction
- ☐ Character letters addressing past mistakes

5. Sponsor Documentation

- ☐ Sponsor's valid government-issued ID
- ☐ Sponsor's proof of legal status (if applicable)
- ☐ Sponsor's proof of residence
- ☐ Sponsor's employment verification
- ☐ Sponsor's recent pay stubs
- ☐ Sponsor's tax returns
- ☐ Sponsor's letter of support explaining relationship
- ☐ Sponsor's affidavit of support (Form I-134 if applicable)

6. Medical & Humanitarian Factors

- ☐ Medical records documenting health conditions
- ☐ Letters from treating physicians
- ☐ Prescription medication documentation
- ☐ Mental health treatment records (if applicable)
- ☐ Documentation of family members' medical needs
- ☐ Evidence of hardship to family if detained

Tips for Success

1. Organize documents chronologically and by category
2. Provide certified translations for all non-English documents

3. Make at least 3 copies of everything (judge, ICE, your attorney)
4. Prepare your sponsor to testify if needed
5. Be honest - any inconsistencies can hurt your case
6. Contact an attorney as soon as possible after detention

Need Help? Contact Amaral Law Today

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