

## BAIL ENFORCEMENT AGENT

**Licensing Authority** Tina Woosley  
Program Services Bureau  
Iowa Department of Public Safety  
Wallace Office Bldg 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl  
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**Legal Authority** Iowa Code, Chapter 80A; Iowa Administrative Code 661, Chapter 2

**Job Description** A bail enforcement agent takes or attempts to take into custody the principal on a bail bond issued on a deposit filed in relation to a criminal proceeding to assure the presence of the defendant at trial. Bail enforcement agents are commonly known as bounty hunters that search for persons who have jumped their bail bond.

**Education & Experience Required** A person wishing to become a licensed, independent bail enforcement agent **must:**

- 1) be at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States,
- 2) be of good moral character, have no convictions for an aggravated misdemeanor or a felony, and have never been convicted of assault resulting from domestic abuse,
- 3) not be an abuser of alcohol or controlled substance, nor have a history of mental illness, instability or a history of repeated acts of violence,
- 4) submit pictures, fingerprints and license fee(s) along with a completed application to the Commissioner of Public Safety,
- 5) pass a written examination,
- 6) be able to show proof of financial responsibility and must be approved for a \$5,000 surety bond; this will be \$10,000 if applying for more than one license under this chapter.

For those wishing to work as an employee for an agency, only the *first four* requirements above apply. Licensed agencies must also submit an employee I.D. card application along with the items in number four. The agency purchases these applications (\$10 each) from the Department of Public Safety prior to the employee completing it.

**Continuing Education** There are no continuing education requirements.

**Examination** Applicants must pass the Bail Enforcement License Exam, which is given by the Department of Public Safety at the Wallace State Office Building once a month.

**Fees** License: (Bail Enforcement Agent, Private Investigator, Security Guard):  
\$100 – each license  
Renewal: \$100 for each two-year license. The Department of Public Safety is responsible for sending out renewal notices (usually 30 days prior to license expiration).  
Exam: None  
Other: Application –  
\$10 - Identification Card fee (one card needed, no matter how many license types; no expiration, to work for that particular agency only)  
\$2 - Application Packet (in person)  
\$3 - Application Packet (by mail)

**SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage** 43-3011 – Bill and Account Collectors (\$11.61)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31,  
2001: 1  
2000: 1  
1999: 1  
1998: 1