

NCBAA

Commissioner's Column

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North Carolina Offers New Services for Bail Bond Licensees

The Agent Services Division has expanded and improved the services provided to licensees so now you can perform almost all your licensing transactions online. The following is a brief description of these new online services and options available to licensees:

National Producer Number (NPN)

The NPN is the number assigned to you by the National Insurance Producer Registry (NIPR) and also serves as your North Carolina bail bond license number. For added security, your NPN replaces your Social Security Number as your license number and will be required to identify yourself when you contact the Department, Administrative Office of the Courts and all other interested parties for licensing matters. Further, all authorities from bail bond permits previously issued to you will be listed under your new NPN. Visit www.NIPR.com to access your new NPN.

State Based Systems (SBS)

The Department signed a licensing agreement with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to implement State Based Systems for bail bond licensing in North Carolina. In partnering with the NAIC, we are able to utilize their technical expertise and benefit from a full suite of Web-based tools that offer online services and payment options. The Agent Services Division has worked closely with the Administrative Office of the Courts to ensure that the new licensing system will provide the same licensing updates to the Electronic Bondsmen's Registry.

FREE SBS Licensee Lookup

SBS Licensee Lookup is a service providing bail bond licensees and consumers with 24-hour access to pertinent license status information. SBS allows licensees to check their license status online, while also allowing consumers to verify a bail bondsman is legitimately licensed and in good standing.

FREE Address Change Requests (ACR)

The ACR function is a service that allows licensees to view and submit changes to their address information online. Keep in mind that due to AOC requirements, the professional bail bondsmen's address **must** list the physical location of the residence not a Post Office mailing address.

OPTIONAL Online Licensee Services (OLS)

OLS is a new service developed by the NAIC on behalf of SBS licensees, providing OLS users with the ability to process certain licensing functions online. For a nominal annual subscription fee, a licensee may view detailed license information, print a copy of their license and receive e-mail notifications of the following licensing events:

- Address Change
- Name Change
- License Status Change
- Company appointments and terminations
- Original License Approval
- License Renewals

OPTIONAL Online Licensee Service (OLS) for Administrators

OLS for Administrators provides the ability to process these same licensing functions online and receive e-mail notifications for multiple licensees. The annual subscription fee per license for this service varies depending on the number of licensees.

Modernization of the Licensing Process

The Department has contracted with Pearson Vue to administer bail bond licensing examinations. The Department will be working closely with Pearson Vue in 2008 to ensure a smooth transfer of the bail bond examination process. As the testing vendor, Pearson Vue will provide bail bond applicants with the ability to schedule exam reservations seven days a week at one of the many Pearson Vue testing centers located throughout North Carolina. Additionally, Pearson Vue will be providing all bail bond licensees with a new photo bearing license.

For more information or to access these online services, visit the Agent Services Division home page on the Department's Web site at www.ncdoi.com.