

*NCBAA
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Statewide Electronic Bondsmen Registry Up and Running

You may recall that back in September, the Department of Insurance's Agent Services Division (ASD) sent every licensed bail bondsmen in North Carolina a memorandum announcing a new law (Section 140 under N.C.G.S. 58.71) that created a statewide electronic registry for all licensed bondsmen, surety bondmen and bail bond runners.

The law, which was effective Oct. 1, streamlines the license-registering process and is currently up and running. As you know, prior to the new electronic registry, bail bondsmen were required to register an original or certified copy of their license, power of appointment and/or power of attorney in every county's Clerk of Courts Office where they did business. Now, the Registry does that for you.

The process works like this — when the Department of Insurance issues you a bondsman, surety bondsman or bail bond runner license, you are also entered into the Registry and are registered and able to conduct business in all 100 counties of the state; the only exception to this is if there is a judgment in a specific county, that county may restrict your ability to do business there. Your listing in the Registry will continue during the effective period of your license, and upon renewal of your license, your listing with the Registry also will be renewed.

Just as the Registry will notify each county's Clerk of Court Office about the status of active licenses, it will also inform them of any regulatory action taken such as license cancellation, license surrender, license suspension or license revocation.

ASD has received many calls from bondsmen with questions regarding Registry issues. In order to provide additional support, we have created a special section on the Department's Web site to answer the most common questions received. Visit www.ncdoi.com, select Agent Services Division and then select the "Hot Topics" link to view the frequently asked questions about the new Registry. You can also call ASD at (919) 807-6800 with questions about the Registry.