

Currently, Chelan County District and Superior Courts, Douglas County District and Superior Courts, and the East Wenatchee Municipal Courts follow the same procedure regarding bail forfeitures. In each of these jurisdictions, following a defendant's failure to appear, the courts issue a notice of forfeiture to the bonding companies. Upon receipt of that notice, the bonding companies are given 60 days to either produce the defendant or pay the bail amount. This is how it has worked locally, and throughout the state, for over 15 years.

The proposed rule would require bonding companies to pay the bond within 10 days of receiving the forfeiture notice and then *could* be reimbursed if the defendant is produced within 60 days. This rule does not take into account the hardship this would impose with regard to producing the funds. In the case of large bail amounts, it is not always possible to produce the funds within 10 days. Especially, if the bonding company has to go through their insurance company to produce the funds. This proposed rule would create a substantial hardship on bail bond companies and could result in bail bond companies ceasing to do business in Chelan County District Court. This, in turn, could bar access to individuals' right to bail. Schroeder Bail Bonds fails to see any benefit this rule change would convey to the courts and respectfully asks the bail forfeiture procedures currently in place to remain the same.

Thank you.

Schroeder Bail Bond

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**CHELAN COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT**