



## Bail bond agencies, bounty hunters face business downturn

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by Rucks Russell/KHOU 11 News

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HOUSTON—Bail bonding agencies and bounty hunters are in the midst of a business downturn in Harris County, and the reasons could stem from efforts to ease overcrowding at the Harris County Jail.

“No one’s getting paid and no money is coming in,” said Randy Kubosh, of Kubosh Bail Bonds in Houston.

Kubosh said the phones at his Lubbock Street office have nearly stopped ringing in

recent months and he blames a spike in the issuance of personal recognizance, or PR bonds, for killing a lot of business.

“People are getting out of jail for free. Where’s the accountability in that?” he said.

According to figures obtained by KHOU, the number of PR bonds given to felony offenders has significantly increased in Harris County, climbing by nearly 90 percent over the last three years.

In 2009, a federal probe found the Harris County Jail to be severely overcrowded.

Some bounty hunters are also complaining of a drop off in business. With fewer defendants paying to get out, bounty hunters have fewer bond absconders to chase down.

“We used to catch two to three a day,” said Shane Carpenter, the owner of Bear Arms Investigation and Security. “Now we’re lucky to get one a week.”

It remains unclear how many of the released defendants are charged with violent crimes.

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