

DAILY TRIBUNE

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Bail bond board works on new documentation

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The Titus County Bail Bond Board, meeting at the county courthouse Thursday afternoon, continued the process of reviewing the forms and documentation it will require of bondsmen in the county.

There was a long discussion on a standardized format for the formal document required for the Surrender of a Principal. In the end, the board decided not to use a form of its own, but agreed to let bondsmen use standard forms designed by their professional association.

Surrender of Principal is the legal term for cancelling a bail bond. County Judge Brian Lee noted it is used most often when the subject may already in jail, prison, or dead.

County Attorney Charles Bailey expressed concerns over the forms as presented to the bail bond board members. If the board mandates county bondsmen use their forms, it could be construed "as practicing law without a license," said Bailey.

Kellye Cooper with AAA Bail Bonds said bondsmen have been using a standard form for many years.

Anthony Cooper, also with AAA Bail Bonds, said they are important forms; all bondsmen have used them "many times."

Lee said he had supposed the board wanted a standard form to be consistent, but after the comments by the Coopers and Bailey he suggested to board should forego it.

Attorney Harolyn Keck asked whether the jail would take Surrender of Principal forms submitted by the bondsmen themselves. She said she had been told the jail wouldn't accept them, and was waiting for the county's form.

The members of the board agreed they wouldn't take any action on a standardized form, and the Board Chairman, Lt. Woody Hughes of the TCSO, said he would inform the jail they should take the forms used by bondsmen.