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Judge Raises Bail On Missing Ellington Man To \$6 Million

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MANCHESTER — —

An Ellington man who has been missing since Dec. 7 did not appear in Superior Court Wednesday to answer criminal charges, and a judge raised bail on his six cases to a total of \$6 million.

Haidar Abushaqra, 41, was scheduled to appear on charges that include first-degree larceny. He was free on bail totalling \$730,000, but Judge Carl Taylor raised bail to \$1 million on each charge and ordered Abushaqra's arrest.

Taylor also called the original bond, meaning the three bail bond companies that are on the hook for the original bonds have six months to produce him or face financial losses.

Abushaqra was last seen at his defunct dealership, Family Auto on Main Street in Manchester, on Dec. 7.

Police say he is in deep debt to individuals and financial institutions. Police say they found no trace of foul play at the dealership. Among many possibilities, police say Abushaqra may have fled from his troubles.

But Abushaqra's family members have said he would never run away and have set up a [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/findhaidar) page to share information and help find him, <http://www.facebook.com/findhaidar>.

The criminal charges against Abushaqra relate to fraudulent practices involving many vehicles, according to arrest warrants. Ryan Barry, the attorney representing Capitol Bail Bonds, told Taylor that the bond company has been looking for Abushaqra and used the services of a private investigator.

"He may be in a very safe place, but he can't be located now," Barry said.

"Isn't this the risk the professional bail bondsman undertakes?" Taylor asked.

Barry responded that Haidar may be "in a particular situation for protective purposes."

Contacted later, Barry said he had no personal knowledge of Abushaqra's whereabouts, but one of several possibilities is that he is in a federal witness protection program.

Capitol holds bonds on Abushaqra totaling \$450,000 for three of the criminal cases, according to the court. If the missing man does not turn up in six months and if Barry cannot get an extension from the court, the bail bond company will have to pay half that amount to an insurance company, Barry said.

