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Riverside bail bondsman arrested for allegedly abducting client

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A bail bondsman was arrested today for allegedly abducting a customer at gunpoint and holding him until he paid off a debt.

Damion Paul Perkins, 36, faces charges of kidnapping for ransom, assault with a deadly weapon and using a firearm during a felony.

He was being held in lieu of \$1 million bail at the Robert Presley Detention Center in downtown Riverside.

"Bail bond agents must abide by the law when they collect payments from customers — and they definitely may not kidnap their clients at gunpoint, or else they will wind up behind bars, requiring the services of their own bail bond agent," said California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner.

The Department of Insurance licenses bail agents, and initiated the investigation into Perkins' alleged actions.

Officials said that in July of this year, Riverside-based Bail Bonds United, co-owned by Perkins, posted a bond for a man who failed to pay the up-front premium on the surety after being released from jail.

With the help of an unidentified male accomplice, Perkins went to the customer's residence on Aug. 9 to collect the debt and allegedly ordered the victim out of his home at gunpoint in front of his children, authorities said.

Perkins allegedly handcuffed the man and placed him in the back of his vehicle, then drove around while the two negotiated the victim's release.

The man eventually obtained additional money and illegal drugs from his family, which he turned over to Perkins as payment on the bond, prompting the defendant to release him, according to the DOI.

If convicted, Perkins could face life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"If you break the law, you will face the consequences," Poizner said.