

Strategies for Reducing Bail – Argument to Make to the Judge

Sample argument you can make to the judge:

Generally, you want to talk to the judge about why you cannot afford your bond and how the judge should release you because you are not a danger to the public and will return to court.

Note: Making this argument will not ensure that your bond will be reduced!

You can explain to the judge information related to the following factors:

First, explain that you are not a danger to public safety.

Second, explain that you will return to court.

You can talk about how you are a responsible person, how you have others in your life who can help you get to court, and why you will prioritize getting to court because resolving your case is very important to you.

Third, explain that you cannot afford the bail set by the judge.

You can explain to the judge how much income you have and how many expenses you have. You can also explain how many people are dependent on you. It is important to bring documentation of your income and expenses.

Fourth, you can explain the significant consequences of your continued incarceration.

You can explain why being in jail has been difficult for you and your family. You can also explain anything you have lost or will lose because of your incarceration.

***Important:** All information provided in these sample templates is provided to support people representing themselves in court. This information is provided for general informational purposes only. We have tried to make it as accurate and up-to-date as possible but laws can change and your individual situation may be different. No information in this guide should be understood as legal advice from ArchCity Defenders. We expressly disclaim all liability that results from actions taken or not taken in reliance on this guide. If you have further questions, please consult a lawyer. We do not intend this information as advertising or solicitation. By providing this information, we are not acting as your lawyer.*