INFOGRAPHIC 02 · IMMIGRATION BAIL BONDS

Cash Bond vs. Surety Bond

Two ways to post the same ICE immigration bond, side by side.

	Cash bond (paid to ICE)	Surety bond (licensed agent)
Money up front	The full bond amount.	A premium, plus any collateral in the agreement.
Who signs with ICE	The obligor: an eligible U.S. citizen, permanent resident, law firm or nonprofit.	The surety company and its licensed agent, as co-obligor.
How it's posted	Online through ICE's CeBONDS system, or as ICE's bond page directs.	The agent posts it; most paperwork can be done by phone.
What comes back	The bond amount, after cancellation, if conditions were met.	Collateral, under the written agreement. The premium is not refunded.
Best fit when…	The family has the full amount and an eligible obligor.	The amount is out of reach, or no relative can serve as obligor.
Same for both	Form I-352 delivery bond · the person must attend every hearing · paying does not end the case.	Form I-352 delivery bond · the person must attend every hearing · paying does not end the case.

ASK IN WRITING → the exact premium, what collateral is required, and when and how it is returned.

WATCH OUT → no one can guarantee a release. Never pay a "fee" before a bond has actually been set.

Questions about an immigration bond?

Call **(888) 845-8806** · 24/7 · English, Español, Հայերեն

Educational only. Not legal advice. Not a law firm. Not affiliated with ICE, DHS, CBP, EOIR, USCIS, or any court. Bond eligibility, amounts and conditions are set by ICE or an immigration judge. No outcome is guaranteed. Last reviewed November 3, 2026.

Sources: ICE, Post a Bond (CeBONDS FAQ); ICE Form I-352; U.S. Treasury Circular 570.

Source: ImmigrationBailBonds.bond · immigrationbailbonds.bond/infographics/cash-bond-vs-surety-bond