

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, in 1971 Local Rule 714, regulating property bondsmen in the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland, was enacted. Local Rule 714 was similar in scope to the statewide bail regulations established in 1970 but it was only applicable to the Circuit Courts of the Seventh Circuit; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1971 Local Rule 714 has undergone amendments and additions including Local Rule 714A. In accordance with MD Rule 16-805, the Seventh Circuit appointed a Bail Bond Commissioner to oversee the licensing of bondsmen and the collection of fees and that has been the long-standing system in the Seventh Circuit since the early 1970's; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Maryland Code Criminal Procedure 5-203, a 1% fee was collected by the Bail Bond Commissioner on all bonds written in the Seventh Circuit. Those fees were paid to the county in which the bond was posted, and the fees were available to pay the expenses of the Office of the Bail Bond Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, Maryland Rule 4-216.1 was adopted with the goal of reducing Courts' reliance on bail. This bail reform has significantly impacted the amount of fees collected by the Seventh Circuit; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of administering the Bail Bond Management System which includes staff, auditing requirements and the creation of a new bail bond management system that would be compatible with the new statewide case management system in Maryland called Maryland Electronic Courts, hereinafter called (MDEC) is cost prohibitive; and

**WHEREAS**, Prince George's County is going live with MDEC on October 17, 2022 and the other counties in the Seventh Circuit are already on the paperless system; and

**WHEREAS** the Seventh Judicial Circuit is the only Judicial Circuit in Maryland that operates under Local Rules and with a Bail Bond Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS** the Seventh Circuit judges voted on February 25, 2022, to rescind the use of Local Bail Rules and a Bail Bond Commissioner in the Seventh Judicial Circuit; and

**WHEREAS** a committee comprised of Judges and the Court Administrator were appointed by the Chief and Administrative Judge to work out the logistics of the rescission of the Local Rules and a transition to a bail bond system consistent with the rest of the Judicial Circuits in Maryland.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to a vote by the Seventh Judicial Circuit on February 25, 2022, after a hearing and deliberations regarding Bail Bonds written in the Seventh Judicial Circuit, it is on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022, hereby

**ORDERED**, that the use of a Bail Bonds Commissioner in the Seventh Judicial Circuit and associated Local Rules 714 and 714A shall be rescinded in the manner detailed in this Administrative Order; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that the Seventh Judicial Circuit shall not issue new licenses to any bondspersons not validly licensed in the Seventh Judicial Circuit on June 30, 2022; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that effective July 1, 2022, all bondspersons writing on insurance in the Seventh Circuit shall hold Maryland State licensure and be subject to all state laws and regulations. Effective July 1, 2022, specific Seventh Judicial Circuit licensure will no longer be required by bondspersons writing on insurance in the Seventh Circuit; and it is further,

**ORDERED**, that all valid licenses issued by the Seventh Judicial Circuit to bondspersons writing on insurance shall expire on June 30, 2022; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that effective July 1, 2022, all provisions of Local Rules 714 and 714A that apply to bondspersons writing on insurance shall be rescinded in the Seventh Judicial Circuit; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that effective **July 1, 2023**, all bondspersons writing on property in the Seventh Judicial Circuit shall be required to hold Maryland State licensure and be subject to all state laws and regulations. Effective July 1, 2023, specific Seventh Judicial Circuit licensure will no longer be required by bondspersons writing on property; and it is

further

**ORDERED**, that all valid licenses issued by the Seventh Judicial Circuit to bondspersons writing on property **shall expire on June 30, 2023**; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that effective July 1, 2023, any property against which a bond was written that has property bond liens above the state maximum, may not have new bonds written against said property until it is below the state lien maximum; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that effective July 1, 2023, all provisions of Local Rules 714 and 714A shall be rescinded; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that effective July 1, 2022, the Seventh Judicial Circuit **shall no longer collect the 1% license fee for bonds written in the Seventh Judicial Circuit**; and it is further,

**ORDERED** that any outstanding license fees shall be paid in full by June 30, 2024.

**SO ORDERED.**



Sheila R. Tillerson Adams  
Chief and Administrative Judge  
Prince George's County and  
Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland

cc: Honorable Mark S. Chandlee  
Honorable H. James West  
Honorable Michael J. Stamm  
Resident Judges in the Seventh Circuit  
Nancy Faulkner, Court Administrator  
Erica Payne-Santiago, Deputy Court Administrator/Jury Commissioner  
George Harper, Esq.  
Tommy Broadwater  
Dennis H. Sew  
Solomon Hamilton, President of Bond Association  
Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Court for Prince George's County  
Kathy Smith, Clerk of the Court for Calvert County  
Sharon L. Hancock, Clerk of the Court for Charles County  
Debra J. Burch, Clerk of the Court for St. Mary's County