

5-401. Pretrial release.

A. **Hearing.**

(1) ***Time.*** If a case is initiated in the district court, and the conditions of release have not been set by the magistrate or metropolitan court, the district court shall conduct a hearing under this rule and issue an order setting the conditions of release as soon as practicable, but in no event later than

(a) if the defendant remains in custody, three (3) days after the date of arrest if the defendant is being held in the local detention center, or five (5) days after the date of arrest if the defendant is not being held in the local detention center; or

(b) arraignment, if the defendant is not in custody.

(2) ***Right to counsel.*** If the defendant does not have counsel at the initial release conditions hearing and is not ordered released at the hearing, the matter shall be continued for no longer than three (3) additional days for a further hearing to review conditions of release, at which the defendant shall have the right to assistance of retained or appointed counsel.

B. Right to pretrial release; recognizance or unsecured appearance bond. Pending trial, any defendant eligible for pretrial release under Article II, Section 13 of the New Mexico Constitution, shall be ordered released pending trial on the defendant's personal recognizance or upon the execution of an unsecured appearance bond in an amount set by the court, unless the court makes written findings of particularized reasons why the release will not reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required. The court may impose non-monetary conditions of release under Paragraph D of this rule, but the court shall impose the least restrictive condition or combination of conditions that will reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of any other person or the community.

C. Factors to be considered in determining conditions of release. In determining the least restrictive conditions of release that will reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of any other person and the community, the court shall consider any available results of a pretrial risk assessment instrument approved by the Supreme Court for use in the jurisdiction, if any, and the financial resources of the defendant. In addition, the court may take into account the available information concerning

- (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged, including whether the offense is a crime of violence or involves alcohol or drugs;
- (2) the weight of the evidence against the defendant;
- (3) the history and characteristics of the defendant, including
 - (a) the defendant's character, physical and mental condition, family ties, employment, past and present residences, length of residence in the community, community ties, past conduct, history relating to drug or alcohol abuse, criminal history, and record concerning appearance at court proceedings; and
 - (b) whether, at the time of the current offense or arrest, the defendant was on probation, on parole, or on other release pending trial, sentencing, or appeal for any offense under federal, state, or local law;
- (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by the defendant's release;
- (5) any other facts tending to indicate the defendant may or may not be likely to appear as required; and
- (6) any other facts tending to indicate the defendant may or may not commit new crimes if released.

D. Non-monetary conditions of release. In its order setting conditions of release, the court shall impose a standard condition that the defendant not commit a federal, state, or local crime during the period of release. The court may also impose the least restrictive particularized condition, or combination of particularized conditions, that the court finds will reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required, the safety of any other person and the community, and the orderly administration of justice, which may include the condition that the defendant

- (1) remain in the custody of a designated person who agrees to assume supervision and to report any violation of a release condition to the court, if the designated person is able reasonably to assure the court that the defendant will appear as required and will not pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community;
- (2) maintain employment, or, if unemployed, actively seek employment;
- (3) maintain or commence an educational program;
- (4) abide by specified restrictions on personal associations, place of abode, or travel;

- (5) avoid all contact with an alleged victim of the crime or with a potential witness who may testify concerning the offense;
- (6) report on a regular basis to a designated pretrial services agency or other agency agreeing to supervise the defendant;
- (7) comply with a specified curfew;
- (8) refrain from possessing a firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon;
- (9) refrain from any use of alcohol or any use of an illegal drug or other controlled substance without a prescription by a licensed medical practitioner;
- (10) undergo available medical, psychological, or psychiatric treatment, including treatment for drug or alcohol dependency, and remain in a specified institution if required for that purpose;
- (11) submit to a drug test or an alcohol test on request of a person designated by the court;
- (12) return to custody for specified hours following release for employment, schooling, or other limited purposes;
- (13) satisfy any other condition that is reasonably necessary to ensure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of any other person and the community.

E. **Secured bond.** If the court makes findings of the reasons why release on personal recognizance or unsecured appearance bond, in addition to any non-monetary conditions of release, will not reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required, the court may require a secured bond for the defendant's release.

(1) ***Factors to be considered in setting secured bond.***

- (a) In determining whether any secured bond is necessary, the court may consider any facts tending to indicate that the particular defendant may or may not be likely to appear as required.
- (b) The court shall set secured bond at the lowest amount necessary to reasonably ensure the defendant's appearance and with regard to the defendant's financial ability to secure a bond.
- (c) The court shall not set a secured bond that a defendant cannot afford for the purpose of detaining a defendant who is otherwise eligible for pretrial release.
- (d) Secured bond shall not be set by reference to a predetermined schedule of monetary amounts fixed according to the nature of the charge.

(2) ***Types of secured bond.*** If a secured bond is determined necessary in a particular case, the court shall impose the first of the following types of secured bond that will reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant.

(a) *Percentage bond.* The court may require a secured appearance bond executed by the defendant in the full amount specified in the order setting conditions of release, secured by a deposit in cash of ten percent (10%) of the amount specified. The deposit may be returned as provided in Paragraph M of this rule.

(b) *Property bond.* The court may require the execution of a property bond by the defendant or by unpaid sureties in the full amount specified in the order setting conditions of release, secured by the pledging of real property in accordance with Rule [5-401.1](#) NMRA.

(c) *Cash or surety bond.* The court may give the defendant the option of either

(i) a secured appearance bond executed by the defendant in the full amount specified in the order setting conditions of release, secured by a deposit in cash of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount specified, which may be returned as provided in Paragraph M of this rule, or

(ii) a surety bond executed by licensed sureties in accordance with Rule [5-401.2](#) NMRA for one hundred percent (100%) of the full amount specified in the order setting conditions of release.

F. Order setting conditions of release; findings regarding secured bond.

(1) *Contents of order setting conditions of release.* The order setting conditions of release shall

(a) include a written statement that sets forth all the conditions to which the release is subject, in a manner sufficiently clear and specific to serve as a guide for the defendant's conduct; and

(b) advise the defendant of

(i) the penalties for violating a condition of release, including the penalties for committing an offense while on pretrial release;

(ii) the consequences for violating a condition of release, including the immediate issuance of a warrant for the defendant's arrest, revocation of pretrial release, and forfeiture of bond; and

(iii) the consequences of intimidating a witness, victim, or informant or otherwise obstructing justice

(2) *Written findings regarding secured bond.* The court shall file written findings of the individualized facts justifying the secured bond, if any, as soon as possible, but no later than two (2) days after the conclusion of the hearing.

G. Pretrial detention. If the prosecutor files a motion for pretrial detention, the court shall follow the procedures set forth in Rule [5-409](#) NMRA.

H. Case pending in district court; motion for review of conditions of release.

(1) ***Motion for review.*** If the district court requires a secured bond for the defendant's release under Paragraph E of this rule or imposes non-monetary conditions of release under Paragraph D of this rule, and the defendant remains in custody twenty-four (24) hours after the issuance of the order setting conditions of release as a result of the defendant's inability to post the secured bond or meet the conditions of release in the present case, the defendant shall, on motion of the defendant or the court's own motion, be entitled to a hearing to review the conditions of release.

(2) ***Review hearing.*** The district court shall hold a hearing in an expedited manner, but in no event later than five (5) days after the filing of the motion. The defendant shall have the right to assistance of retained or appointed counsel at the hearing. Unless the order setting conditions of release is amended and the defendant is thereupon released, the court shall state in the record the reasons for declining to amend the order setting conditions of release. The court shall consider the defendant's financial ability to secure a bond. No defendant eligible for pretrial release under Article II, Section 13 of the New Mexico Constitution shall be detained solely because of financial inability to post a secured bond unless the court determines by clear and convincing evidence and makes findings of the reasons why the amount of secured bond required by the court is reasonably necessary to ensure the appearance of the particular defendant as required. The court shall file written findings of the individualized facts justifying the secured bond as soon as possible, but no later than two (2) days after the conclusion of the hearing.

(3) ***Work or school release.*** A defendant who is ordered released on a condition that requires that the defendant return to custody after specified hours shall, on motion of the defendant or the court's own motion, be entitled to a hearing to review the conditions imposed. Unless the requirement is removed and the defendant is released on another condition, the court shall state in the record the reason for the continuation of the requirement. A hearing to review conditions of release under this subparagraph shall be held by the district court within five (5) days of the filing of the motion. The defendant shall have the right to assistance of retained or appointed counsel at the hearing.

(4) ***Subsequent motion for review.*** The defendant may file subsequent motions for review of the order setting conditions of release, but the court may rule on subsequent motions with or without a hearing.

I. **Amendment of conditions.** The court may amend its order setting conditions of release at any time. If the amendment of the order may result in the detention of the defendant or in more

restrictive conditions of release, the court shall not amend the order without a hearing. If the court is considering revocation of the defendant's pretrial release or modification of the defendant's conditions of release for violating the a condition of release, the court shall follow the procedures set forth in Rule [5-403](#) NMRA.

J. **Record of hearing.** A record shall be made of any hearing held by the district court under this rule.

K. **Cases pending in magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court; petition for release or review by district court.**

(1) ***Case within magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court trial jurisdiction.*** A defendant charged with an offense that is within magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court trial jurisdiction may file a petition in the district court for review of the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court's order setting conditions of release only after the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court has ruled on a motion to review the conditions of release under Rule [6-401](#)(H) NMRA, Rule [7-401](#)(H) NMRA, or Rule [8-401](#)(G) NMRA. The defendant shall attach to the district court petition a copy of the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court order disposing of the defendant's motion for review.

(2) ***Felony case.*** A defendant charged with a felony offense who has not been bound over to the district court may file a petition in the district court for release under this rule at any time after the defendant's arrest.

(3) ***Petition; requirements.*** A petition under this paragraph shall include the specific facts that warrant review by the district court and may include a request for a hearing. The petitioner shall promptly

- (a) file a copy of the district court petition in the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court;
- (b) serve a copy on the district attorney; and
- (c) provide a copy to the assigned district court judge.

(4) ***Magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court's jurisdiction pending determination of the petition.*** Upon the filing of a petition under this paragraph, the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court's jurisdiction to set or amend the conditions of release shall be suspended pending determination of the petition by the district court. The magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court shall retain jurisdiction over all other aspects of the case, and the case shall proceed in the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court while the district court petition is

pending. The magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court's order setting conditions of release, if any, shall remain in effect unless and until the district court issues an order amending the conditions of release.

(5) ***District court review.*** The district court shall rule on the petition in an expedited manner. Within three (3) days after the petition is filed, the district court shall take one of the following actions:

- (a) set a hearing no later than ten (10) days after the filing of the petition and promptly transmit a copy of the notice to the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court;
- (b) deny the petition summarily; or
- (c) amend the order setting conditions of release without a hearing.

(6) ***District court order; transmission to magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court.*** The district court shall promptly transmit to the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court a copy of the district court order disposing of the petition, and jurisdiction over the conditions of release shall revert to the magistrate, metropolitan, or municipal court.

L. **Expedited trial scheduling for defendant in custody.** The district court shall provide expedited priority scheduling in a case in which the defendant is detained as a result of inability to post a secured bond or meet the conditions of release.

M. **Return of cash deposit.** If a defendant has been released by executing a secured appearance bond and depositing a cash deposit under Paragraph E of this rule, when the conditions of the appearance bond have been performed and the defendant's case has been adjudicated by the court, the clerk shall return the sum that has been deposited to the person who deposited the sum, or that person's personal representatives or assigns.

N. **Release from custody by designee.** The chief judge of the district court may designate by written court order responsible persons to implement the pretrial release procedures set forth in Rule [5-408](#) NMRA. A designee shall release a defendant from custody prior to the defendant's first appearance before a judge if the defendant is eligible for pretrial release under Rule [5-408](#) NMRA, but may contact a judge for special consideration based on exceptional circumstances. No person shall be qualified to serve as a designee if the person or the person's spouse is related within the second degree of blood or marriage to a paid surety who is licensed to sell property or corporate bonds within this state.

O. **Bind over to district court.** For any case that is not within magistrate or metropolitan court trial jurisdiction, upon notice to that court, any bond shall be transferred to the district court upon the filing of an information or indictment in the district court.

P. **Evidence.** Information offered in connection with or stated in any proceeding held or order entered under this rule need not conform to the New Mexico Rules of Evidence.

Q. **Forms.** Instruments required by this rule, including any order setting conditions of release, appearance bond, property bond, or surety bond, shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court.

R. **Judicial discretion; disqualification and excusal.** Action by any court on any matter relating to pretrial release shall not preclude the subsequent statutory disqualification of a judge. A judge may not be excused from setting initial conditions of release or reviewing a lower court's order setting or revoking conditions of release unless the judge is required to recuse under the provisions of the New Mexico Constitution or the Code of Judicial Conduct.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1987; October 1, 1987; September 1, 1990; December 1, 1990; September 1, 2005; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 07-8300-029, effective December 10, 2007; by Supreme Court Order No. 10-8300-033, effective December 10, 2010; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 14-8300-017, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2014; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 17-8300-005, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after July 1, 2017.]