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Palmetto Surety Corporation



SPOTLIGHT: Claims Department

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FUGITIVE APPREHENSION

Occasionally an agent may have clients who fail to appear for court. However, they are generally the type of client who will reappear with a simple phone call. From time to time it is also true that an agent will have a defendant who has taken flight and has become a true fugitive from justice.

As an agent, it is your sole responsibility to take the necessary action to locate and apprehend a fugitive in order to avoid payment of a loss. How an agent goes about apprehending a fugitive is very important. We have listed some key areas to be aware of when tracking and attempting to apprehend a fugitive.

- Familiarize yourself with your state's statutes governing an Individual's right to apprehend wanted fugitives.
- Be sure that you or your investigator meet all state licensing

- requirements associated with the apprehension and arrest of fugitives.

- Always confirm an active warrant exists on the fugitive. The investigator or bondsman should have a certified copy of the warrant and a recent photograph of the defendant when making an arrest.
- Request the assistance of local law enforcement when attempting an arrest of any fugitive, no matter what the amount of the bond or charge.
- When tracking a fugitive outside of your state, be sure to contact either Palmetto Surety's office, or a local agent within the state the fugitive has been located to determine applicable laws. Some states require you to be licensed by the state before you can apprehend fugitives within the state. Failure to abide by local statutes may result in an

- arrest for kidnapping and a civil suit for damages.

Apprehending fugitives has always been a delicate endeavor. The present climate dictates all necessary precautions be taken before attempting to apprehend a fugitive. When in doubt, always ask for a second opinion. If you ever have any questions or concerns relating to fugitive apprehension, do not hesitate to call our office to speak to our Claims Manager or our Chief Operating Officer.

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