



BELIZE

**BAIL REFORM ACT
CHAPTER 100**

REVISED EDITION 2011

**SHOWING THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS AS AT 31ST
DECEMBER, 2011**

This is a revised edition of the Substantive Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011.

CHAPTER 100

BAIL REFORM

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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CHAPTER 100

BAIL REFORM

21 of 1999.
S.I. 80 of 1999.

[24th April 1999]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Bail Reform Act.

Abrogation of the rule against indemnification of sureties.

2. The rule of law whereby it is a crime for a defendant in a criminal case who has been offered bail, or for a third person acting on his behalf, to indemnify or agree to indemnify such defendant's sureties against liability on his recognizances is hereby abrogated.

Official bondsmen.

3.-(1) Notwithstanding any rule of law to the contrary, it shall be lawful for a person who has been offered bail, or ordered to find bail, to obtain a bail bond for the requisite amount from an official bondsman, and every such bond shall be accepted in all courts *in lieu* of any sureties approved by the court.

(2) The term "official bondsman" referred to in subsection (1) of this section means a bondsman approved by the Supreme Court.

(3) The Attorney-General may, after consultation with the Chief Justice, make rules for the approval of bondsmen for the purposes of this section.

Collateral security unnecessary in less serious cases.

4. Where the amount of bail offered by any court does not exceed five thousand dollars, it shall not be necessary to require a collateral security in the form of deposit of title deeds or otherwise, but the court will nevertheless satisfy itself that the sureties are of sufficient means to meet the amount of bail.