

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF REGULATORY BOARDS**

**CHAPTER 0780-05-20  
PROFESSIONAL BONDSMEN**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

0780-05-20-.01	Purpose	0780-05-20-.04	Review of Applications
0780-05-20-.02	Definitions	0780-05-20-.05	Change of Information
0780-05-20-.03	Qualifications, Applications, and Fees	0780-05-20-.06	Disciplinary Actions

**0780-05-20-.01 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of these rules is to set specific requirements that should be followed by professional bondsman companies and professional bondsmen engaged in the bail bond business in this State pursuant to Public Chapter 491 of 2025, codified as Tennessee Code Annotated Section 4-3-1304, 40-11-314, 40-11-101 et seq., as amended.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 40-11-314. **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed December 26, 2025; effective through June 24, 2026.

**0780-05-20-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of these rules, the definitions, terms, and words set forth below shall apply and shall have the following meanings given:

- (1) "Board" means the Board of Professional Bondsmen or its assigned designee.
- (2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Board.
- (3) "Company" and "Professional Bondsman Company" mean a sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, or other entity engaged for profit in the business of furnishing bail, making bonds or entering into undertakings, as surety, in criminal proceedings, or for the appearance of persons charged with any criminal offense or violation of law or ordinance punishable by fine, imprisonment or death, before any of the courts of this state, including municipal courts or securing the payment of fines, judgments or damages imposed and of costs assessed by those courts upon preliminary or final disposition thereof.
- (4) "Court" means any court in this state, including municipal courts, where the appearance of persons charged with any criminal offense or violation of law may be secured upon the issuance of bail.
- (5) "Department" means the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.
- (6) "Professional bondsman" means any person, agent, representative, or employee of a company, or those acting for the company, whether with or without compensation or salary, if the individual engages in any of the undertakings listed in the definition of a company. An individual acting as a bounty hunter without providing any other services as a bail bondsman is not covered by this definition.
- (7) "Licensee" shall mean a professional bondsman company or a professional bondsman.

(Rule 0780-05-20-.02, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 40-11-301 and 40-11-314. **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed December 26, 2025; effective through June 24, 2026.

**0780-05-20-.03 QUALIFICATIONS, APPLICATIONS, AND FEES.**

- (1) No person, company, partnership, or other entity shall act as a professional bondsman or professional bondsman company, directly or indirectly, in this state unless the person, company, partnership, or other entity is licensed by the Board. Any person, company, partnership, or other entity proposing to provide professional bondsman services or services as a professional bondsman company in this state shall submit an application on a form provided by the Board. The application must include all information and documents required by the Board and must be truthful and accurate.
- (2) The application for a professional bondsman must include:
  - (a) All information required on the application form provided by the Board;
  - (b) A receipt or proof of a completed background check;
  - (c) Company license number, written notice of company affiliation, or notice of operation as a sole proprietor, if the applicant is affiliated with such a company at the time of the application; and
  - (d) An application fee for a professional bondsman license in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (3) The application for a professional bondsman company must include:
  - (a) All information required on the application form provided by the Board;
  - (b) A receipt or proof of a completed background check for each owner of the professional bondsman company;
  - (c) A list of all bonding agents or professional bondsmen working on behalf of or under the supervision of the company;
  - (d) Copies of relevant business filings, if applicable, to establish the professional bondsman company's corporate status; and
  - (e) An application fee for a professional bondsman company license set as follows:
    1. A professional bondsman company license application fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
    2. Additionally, a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per professional bondsman, professional surety bondsman, and/or bonding agent affiliated with the professional bondsman company. This fee shall be non-prorated and non-refundable. Payment of this fee does not alleviate the requirement that each individual professional bondsman and professional surety bondsman be licensed under this chapter.
- (4) All applicants for a professional bondsman license or owners of a professional bondsman company must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of application.
- (5) Each background check submitted as part of an application must be completed by an entity approved by the Department to contract with applicants to provide background checks and

(Rule 0780-05-20-.03, continued)

submit background checks directly to the Board. Background checks must be dated within twelve (12) months of the date of the submitted application.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 40-11-301 and 40-11-314. **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed December 26, 2025; effective through June 24, 2026.

#### **0780-05-20-.04 REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.**

- (1) The Board may deny an application for initial licensure, any renewal thereof, or request to reinstate a license for any violation of Title 40, Chapter 11, or any rule promulgated thereunder.
- (2) The Director may review and approve any application for a professional bondsman or professional bondsman company license if the applicant meets all requirements for licensure and does not have any disqualifying factors.
- (3) In addition to the other subsections in this rule, the Board or Board's designee may deny an application for initial licensure, any renewal thereof, or request to reinstate a license for any of the following grounds:
  - (a) The submission of false, inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information as part of an application for a license;
  - (b) The denial or removal of a professional bondsman or professional bondsman company's privileges from any court;
  - (c) The conviction of any felony or misdemeanor that makes a professional bondsman or the owner of a professional bondsman company ineligible to engage in the profession as a professional bondsman; or
  - (d) Any other misconduct or unprofessional act in the practice of acting as a professional bondsman.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 40-11-128, 40-11-301, and 40-11-314. **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed December 26, 2025; effective through June 24, 2026.

#### **0780-05-20-.05 CHANGE OF INFORMATION.**

- (1) Every professional bondsman and professional bondsman company must update the Board within seventy-two hours (72), as required by T.C.A. § 40-11-319, of the following information:
  - (a) Any arrest or citation for any misdemeanor or felony charge of the professional bondsman, owner of a professional bondsman company, or any bonding agent related to the professional bondsman or professional bondsman company;
  - (b) Any misdemeanor or felony conviction for the professional bondsman, owner of a professional bondsman company, or any bonding agent related to the professional bondsman or professional bondsman company;
  - (c) Any change in mailing address or contact information of the licensee, changes in ownership of a licensee, or changes in the corporate structure of a licensee; or
  - (d) Any denial or revocation of bonding privileges of the professional bondsman company or any professional bondsman in any court.
- (2) A professional bondsman company must notify the Board of any change in employment of any professional bondsman, professional surety bondsman, or bonding agent affiliated with the

(Rule 0780-05-20-.05, continued)

professional bondsman company. This notice must be made within thirty (30) days of the change of employment. If a company is submitting notice of a change to its affiliated professional bondsmen, the notice must be accompanied by a one-hundred-dollar (\$100.00) application fee. All information required by Rule 0780-05-20-.03 shall be provided with this application. The fee for this application shall be non-prorated and not refundable.

- (3) Failure to timely notify the Board of any update required by this rule may result in disciplinary action by the Board. Address and name changes, as well as employer information, will be included in the information verified by the Board during an audit.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 40-11-301, 40-11-314, and 40-11-319. **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed December 26, 2025; effective through June 24, 2026.

#### **0780-05-20-.06 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.**

- (1) The Board may revoke or suspend a license for any violation of Title 40, Chapter 11, or any rule promulgated thereunder.
- (2) The Board may assess civil penalties of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation against any professional bondsman, professional bondsman company, or any other person for any violation of Title 40, Chapter 11, or any rule promulgated thereunder.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 40-11-301 and 40-11-314. **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed December 26, 2025; effective through June 24, 2026.