DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
ADMINISTRATION & LICENSING SERVICES BRANCH
PRODUCER LICENSING BUREAU
320 CAPITOL MALL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(800) 967-9331 OR (916) 322-3555
www.insurance.ca.gov

NOTICE

TO: California County Clerks and Jail Enforcement Officials

DATE: August 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Bail Agent Licenses

Background
One of Commissioner Poizner's 2009 strategic initiatives is to have 100 percent paperless interaction with its licensees, including bail agents, by 2010. As a result, beginning on July 1, 2009, the California Department of Insurance (CDI) stopped printing and mailing licenses to bail agents. Instead, CDI began sending email notifications to all of its individual and organizational licensees with instructions on how to download and print their license from CDI's web site. The email notification includes a link to the new "Obtain Your License Online" service. However, at the time of initial licensure CDI continues to issue the blue bail license identification cards to bail agents, which includes the bail agent's photograph.

It has been brought to our attention that several jails are not solely relying on the bail license identification cards to determine whether an individual holds a valid bail agent license. In addition to the bail license identification card, these jails are also requesting proof that the bail agent license is currently valid. The most recent licenses that CDI was mailing to its licensees included a pocket-size license which indicated the dates of the license term. Many jails were accepting the pocket-size license as proof that the license was still valid.

However, the licenses that are now being downloaded from CDI's website no longer include a pocket-size license to go along with the full-size license. Consequently, in lieu of the pocket-size license, bail agents are attempting to gain entry into jails by presenting a copy of their current full-size bail license that was downloaded from CDI's "Obtain Your License Online" service (https://interactive.web.insurance.ca.gov/eLicense/index.jsp).

How to Validate Bail Agent Licenses
To determine for certain whether a bail agent license is valid, the bail agent's license record must be checked by logging onto CDI's web site at http://www.insurance.ca.gov/ and, on the Main Page, select "Check License Status" (http://www.insurance.ca.gov/license-status/) that is located in the upper right portion of the screen. By using "Check License Status" anyone may access the bail agent's license record, which shows the dates of the license term and indicates whether the license is currently active. If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please call the Producer Licensing Bureau's Bail Agent Licensing Unit at (916) 492-3035.