

who paid their money bonds indicated that they received help from a family member or significant other (46 or 58%), or used their own money (29 or 36%).

The vast majority of participants in this study (91 or 66%) were in jail for 1 to 3 days prior to release, followed by 4 to 7 days (19 or 14%). The overall majority of participants in this study were therefore in for less than 7 days prior to release. In addition, there was a moderately strong and positive correlation between bond amounts for those released on a money bond and jail time.¹² As bond amount increased for participants in our study, the amount of time spent in jail prior to release also increased.

When asking about prior experience with bond and arrest history, nearly 43 percent of participants indicated that they have no prior arrests (54 participants). Approximately 30 percent of participants in the study indicated that they had previously posted bond for a prior arrest using a bail bondsman (40 participants), followed by 20 percent indicating they had previously been released on recognizance (27 participants).

Finally, we also asked participants if they felt that pretrial supervision has been helpful for them. This item was fairly polarized, with nearly 31 percent of respondents (45 participants) indicating they strongly disagreed with this statement, compared to 24 percent of participants indicating that they strongly agreed (35 participants), with 26 percent indicating they neither agreed nor disagreed (38 participants).

We also explored the relationship between prior arrest history and/or prior pretrial release history, both self-reported, and how individuals were released for their current pending charges. We found that there was a relationship between whether or not a participant had previously been released on a money bond versus released on recognizance and their current pretrial release status.¹³ Of the 40 participants who had been previously released on a money bond, the majority (30 or 75%) were released on a money bond for their current pending charges in contrast to only 40% (27 individuals) who had previously been released on recognizance being released currently on a money bond. However, there was no meaningful relationship between whether or not individuals had a reported prior arrest history and whether or not they were released on recognizance or a money bond.

¹² $r = 0.35, p = 0.001$

¹³ $\chi^2 = 5.83, p = 0.016$

Table 9: Pretrial Demographics for Released Defendants

<i>Characteristic</i>	Frequency	Percentage
How Released Pretrial		
On Recognizance	59	40.4
On Money Bond	87	59.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Bond Amount for those Released on Money Bond <i>(Based on 87 participants who were released on a money bond)</i>		
\$1 to \$500	10	11.5
\$501 to \$ 1,000	11	12.6
\$1,001 to \$5,000	32	36.8
\$5,001 to \$10,000	8	9.2
\$10,001 to \$25,000	11	12.6
\$25,001 to \$50,000	6	7.0
\$50,001 to \$100,000	6	7.0
\$100,000 +	3	3.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Method for Posting Bond <i>(Based on 87 participants who were released on a money bond)</i>		
Bondsman	66	76.7
Court Directly	13	15.1
Other	7	8.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Method for Bond Payment <i>(Based on 87 participants who were released on a money bond. Multiple selections possible; total percentages exceed 100)</i>		
Using own Money	29	36.3
Help from Family/Significant	46	57.5
Help from Friends	8	10.0
Other	8	10.0
Time in Jail		
1 to 3 Days	91	65.9
4 to 7 Days	19	13.8
8 to 14 Days	8	5.8
15 to 30 Days	15	10.9
31 to 60 Days	5	10.9
60 +	5	3.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Pretrial Supervision Has been Helpful for Me		
Strongly Disagree	45	31.3
Disagree	14	9.7
Neither Agree/Disagree	38	26.4
Agree	12	8.3
Strongly Agree	35	24.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Table 9: Pretrial Demographics for Released Defendants (cont.)

	Frequency	Percentage
Posted Bond Before and How		
<i>(Multiple selections possible; total percentages exceed 100)</i>		
No, I Have No Prior Arrests	54	43
No, I Wasn't Offered Bond	2	1.5
No, I was Released on Recognizance	27	20.0
Yes, I Paid the Court Directly	8	5.9
Yes, I Used a Bail Bondsman	40	29.6
Other	7	5.2

Potential Collateral Consequences for Released Pretrial Defendants

Another aim of this study was to unravel potential collateral consequences for pretrial released defendants, including any disruptions to employment, living situations or child residency as a result of incarceration prior to release (see Table 10). The majority of participants in this study indicated being employed prior to arrest (99 or 72%). Of those previously employed, the vast majority indicated that they did not lose their job as a result of being incarcerated (67 or 70%). However, 30 percent of participants indicated that they had in fact lost their job as a result of being incarcerated prior to release.

In terms of living situation, the majority of participants indicated living with family or a significant other (72 or 52%), followed by living alone (28 or 20%), and living with roommates (24 or 17%) prior to arrest. Very few participants were living on the street, shelter/motel, or combination of these options (8 or 6%). Most participants had been living in this arrangement prior to arrest (57%), and most indicated that they currently live in the same place as before arrest (75%). Slightly more than half of the participants in this study are parents or guardians of a child/children (76 or 54%). Of those, the majority indicated that being in jail did not disrupt the living situation for the child/children in their custody (46 or 61%). However, nearly a quarter (18 or 24%) of participants indicated that it had. We can therefore see that a fairly significant percentage of participants' children's living arrangements were not disrupted for those released pretrial in contrast to what we saw for incarcerated defendants.

We also evaluated whether participants felt that being incarcerated helped improve their relationship with family. Nearly half of participants indicated that they either disagreed with this statement; with a quarter indicating they neither agreed nor disagreed. Most participants released pretrial, therefore, did not believe jail helped improve their relationship with their family.

Finally, we explored the relationship between several pretrial processes and potential collateral consequences. In particular, we were interested in evaluating the relationship between length of time in jail and job loss, particularly for those who indicated they had lost a job (see Table 11). Although the majority of participants released pretrial did not lose their job, of those who indicated they had (28 individuals), roughly half of those who lost their job had been incarcerated within the 1 to 3 day range (13 or 46%). This indicates that even short periods of confinement appear to still have a negative effect on employment status for those who are employed prior to arrest.

Another relationship we examined was how participants were released and their job status prior to arrest (see Table 12). We found that the majority of participants who had a job prior to arrest were released on a money bond compared to recognizance (65 or 66%). In

addition, the majority of those who were released on recognizance did not have a job prior to arrest (22 or 58%). It is important to note that a causal relationship between employment status and pretrial release decision was not established. It appears, however, that decision-makers within the pretrial process may be taking into account employment status when setting the financial terms for pretrial release.

Table 10: Pretrial Collateral Consequences

<i>Characteristic</i>	Frequency	Percentage
Employed Prior to Arrest		
Yes	99	72.3
No	38	27.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Lost Job Because of Incarceration <i>(Based on 99 participants who were employed prior to arrest)</i>		
Yes	29	30.2
No	67	69.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Living Prior to Arrest		
Living with Family/Significant Other	72	52.2
Living with Roommates	24	17.4
Living Alone	28	20.3
Living in Shelter/Motel	3	2.2
Living on Street	3	2.2
Combination of Above/From Place to Place (e.g. Shelter, Street)	2	1.5
Other	6	4.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>100.0</i>
How Long Living in Arrangement For		
Up to 1 Month	18	12.7
1 to 3 Months	15	10.6
3 to 6 Months	24	16.90
6 or More Months	81	57.0
Other	4	2.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Live in Same Place as Before Jail		
Yes	109	75.2
No	36	24.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Parent or Guardian of Child/Children		
Yes	76	54.3
No	64	45.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Table 10: Pretrial Collateral Consequences (cont.)

	Frequency	Percentage
Being in Jail Changed Living Situation for Child in my Custody (Based on 76 participants who are parents/guardians)		
Yes	18	23.7
No	46	60.5
I don't know	12	15.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Being in Jail Improved Relationship with my Family		
Strongly Disagree	49	34.5
Disagree	17	12.0
Neither Agree/Disagree	36	25.4
Agree	13	9.2
Strongly Agree	27	19.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Table 11: Length of Time In Jail Prior to Release and Job Loss

Days in Jail Before Release	Lost Job Because of Jail	
	Yes <i>Frequency (%)</i>	No <i>Frequency (%)</i>
1-3	13 (46.4)	48 (71.6)
4-7	5 (17.9)	9 (13.4)
8-14	1 (3.6)	9 (13.4)
15-30	7 (25.0)	4 (6.0)
61+	2 (7.1)	3 (4.5)
<i>Total</i>	<i>28 (100.0)</i>	<i>67 (100.0)</i>

$$\chi^2 = 8.7, p = 0.07$$

Table 12: Job Before Arrest and Pretrial Release Decision

Job before arrest	Pretrial Release Decision		Total <i>Frequency</i>
	Yes <i>Frequency (%)</i>	No <i>Frequency (%)</i>	
How released			
Recognizance	34 (34.3)	22 (57.9)	56
Money Bond	65 (65.5)	16 (43.1)	81
<i>Total</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>137</i>

$$\chi^2 = 6.3, p = 0.012$$

Procedural Justice and Opinions on Money Bond

We were also interested in evaluating released defendant perceptions of fairness with the pretrial process, or procedural justice. We created a procedural justice scale based on three Likert-scale survey items. These three items measured perceptions of fairness regarding the bond amount, fairness of the bond hearing process, and whether participants felt they were treated with

respect during their most recent bond hearing.¹⁴ The mean of the scale was 3.07 (standard deviation = 1.28) with 3 representing neither disagree nor agree.

The procedural justice scale was used to analyze relationships to other important pretrial concepts. We found a relationship between how individuals were released pretrial and their perceptions of procedural justice. Participants who were released on recognizance had a higher score on the pretrial scale (mean = 3.57, standard deviation = 1.12, 56 individuals) compared to those released on a money bond (mean = 2.72, standard deviation = 1.28, 81 individuals).¹⁵ Thus, participants released on recognizance appear to feel that the pretrial process is more fair compared to those released on a money bond.

A moderate and negative correlation was also found between the amount of money bond participants were released on and the procedural justice scale.¹⁶ In other words, as the money bond amount increased for participants in our study, procedural justice perceptions decreased. Participants who have to pay more money for release may therefore perceive unfairness. A small but negative relationship was also seen between jail time and the procedural justice scale.¹⁷ As time in jail increased for our participants, their perceptions of procedural justice decreased based on our scale. As with spending more money for release, potentially spending more time in jail decreases participant's sense of fairness with the pretrial process.

As in the jail survey, two questions focused on released defendants' perceptions of using money for release, and whether they agreed that money encourages individuals to return to court and follow the law (see Table 13). As was seen in these questions with the jail participants, responses were fairly polarized, with participants leaning more heavily towards the strongly disagree category. Approximately 32 percent of participants strongly agreed with this statement (44 participants), compared to roughly 22 percent of participants strongly disagreeing (29 participants), although nearly a quarter of participants neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. Similar results were also found when asking opinions of using money for release and encouraging individuals to follow the law.

Table 13: Released Defendants' Opinions on Use of Money Bond

Paying Money for Release Encourages Individuals to Come to Court	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	29	21.5
Disagree	8	5.9
Neither Agree/Disagree	33	24.4
Agree	21	15.6
Strongly Agree	44	32.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>100.0</i>

¹⁴ These items had good internal consistency ($\alpha = 0.84$), suggesting that they are measuring a common latent construct.

¹⁵ $t = 4.05$, $df = 135$ $p = .0001$

¹⁶ $r = -0.27$, $p = 0.0025$

¹⁷ $r = -0.16$, $p = 0.066$

Table 13: Released Defendants' Opinions on Use of Money Bond (cont.)

Paying Money for Release Encourages Individuals to Follow the Law	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	29	20.7
Disagree	17	12.1
Neither Agree/Disagree	36	25.7
Agree	16	11.4
Strongly Agree	42	30.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>100.0</i>

4. Discussion and Future Implications

The results of this study provide insights into the perceptions and experiences of individuals directly involved and impacted by the pretrial stage of the criminal justice process. For those incarcerated pretrial who have the option of posting a money bond, this study explored reasons why these individuals choose not to post bond. Not being able to afford bond was the most commonly indicated reason. However, this study also uncovered other potentially complex reasons why incarcerated defendants may be choosing not to post bond, including wanting to accrue or serve time, issues with having an address to provide pretrial services, or finding a cosigner. Future research should continue exploring the additional reasons keeping pretrial defendants in jail.

This study also provided information on potential and actual collateral consequences of incarceration for both released defendants and detained pretrial defendants. Although detained participants' concerns about potential collateral consequences were not certain to take place (e.g. may not necessarily lose job), their responses still provided useful information on their perceptions of these issues (e.g. employment, child residency) – and potential challenges they may face upon leaving jail. For example, the vast majority (84.3%) of detained defendants with jobs prior to incarceration believed that incarceration would negatively impact their employment.

In terms of actual consequences, 30 percent of released defendants with a job prior to arrest lost their job as a result of incarceration prior to release. In addition, of those released defendants who lost their jobs, nearly half had only been in jail for 1 to 3 days. Future research investigating this finding could provide insights into what if any factors could potentially help individuals maintain jobs during this 1 to 3 day period (e.g., research on shortening time to release to within hours rather than within 1 to 3 days). In addition, longitudinal data following participants in both jail and on pretrial supervision could provide a better understanding of the impact of pretrial detention on employment and additional potential collateral consequences.

Although this study provided data directly from participants currently involved in the system on their pretrial and money bond experiences, future research should aim to link participant responses with administrative data. This could help fill potential gaps participants may be unaware of or flag inconsistencies provided by respondents. In addition, one limitation of the current study for jail participants was that we did not obtain specific information on participants with multiple bonds. A more comprehensive analysis including administrative data would help provide for a more holistic picture of potential constraints that may keep pretrial defendants detained. In addition, this study did not measure income. Although measuring income may be challenging (e.g. gaining meaningful data on legal and illegal income), this could be an area to further explore for the topic of pretrial release and money bonds.

Finally, another interesting contribution from this study was the exploration of procedural justice within the pretrial process. Here we saw that those released on recognizance appear to have slightly higher perceptions of fairness compared to those released on a money bond. In addition, for those in jail, higher bond amounts also lead to slightly lower levels of perceptions of procedural justice. Research further exploring this concept and refining our procedural justice scale specifically within pretrial is encouraged.

5. Appendices

Appendix A: Jail Survey

Appendix B: Released Defendant Survey

Appendix C: Informed Consent

Appendix A

Jail Survey

Please answer all questions honestly. Ask a George Mason researcher for clarification if you do not understand a question.

1. Inmate ID number

.....

2. The court set a bond amount that I must pay before being released.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No (please stop filling out this survey)

3. Today the amount of my bond in this jurisdiction is set at:

Mark only one oval.

- \$0 to \$500
- \$501 to \$1,000
- \$1,001 to \$5,000
- \$5,001 to \$10,000
- \$10,001 to \$25,000
- \$25,001 to \$50,000
- \$50,001 to \$100,000
- \$100,001 or more

4. I have been in jail:

Mark only one oval.

- 1 to 3 days
- 4 to 7 days
- 8 to 14 days
- 15 to 30 days
- 31 to 60 days
- 61 days or more

5. I plan to post bond.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes - I will use a bondsman
- Yes - I will pay the court directly
- Not sure yet
- No (skip to question # 7)

6. I will pay by:

Check all that apply.

- Using my own money
- Getting help from family
- Getting help from friends
- Other:

7. I did not or will not post bond because:

Check all that apply.

- I cannot afford it
- My family cannot afford it
- I don't want to
- My family doesn't want to help
- My lawyer told me not to
- I have a bond or warrant in another jurisdiction
- I'm sentenced on another case
- Other:

8. I had a job before I was arrested.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes (please answer next question)
- No (skip to question # 10)

9. I may lose my job because I am in jail.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

10. Before being arrested, I was:

Mark only one oval.

- Living with my family
- Living with roommates
- Living alone
- Living in a shelter or motel
- Living on the street
- Other:

11. I had been living in this arrangement for:

Mark only one oval.

- Up to 1 month
- 1 to 3 months
- 3 to 6 months
- 6 or more months

12. I will live in the same place when I get out of jail.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

13. Being in jail has or will improve my relationship with my family.

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

14. Are you a parent or guardian of one or more children?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes (answer next question)
- No (skip next question)

15. Being in jail has or will change the living situation for a child in my custody.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

16. I have posted bond for a prior arrest.

Check all that apply.

- No, I have no prior arrests
- No, I wasn't offered bond
- No, I was released on recognizance
- Yes, I paid the court directly
- Yes, I used a bail bondsman
- Other:

Please tell us your opinion on the following statements.

17. My most recent bond hearing was fair.

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

18. I was treated with respect during my most recent bond hearing.

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

19. The current bond amount set for me is fair.

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

20. Paying a money bond encourages people to come to court.

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

21. Paying a money bond encourages people to follow the law.

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

22. In what year were you born?

.....

23. Please check the boxes that best reflect your racial and ethnic identity.

Check all that apply.

- White
- African American
- Hispanic
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Native American or American Indian
- Other:

24. Please select the option below that best reflects your education level.

Mark only one oval.

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college
- Associate degree
- College degree
- Advanced degree (e.g. Masters, Doctorate)
- Other:

Additional Future Interview

We will be randomly selecting willing participants to complete an additional interview on the topic of bail and money bond. This interview will last roughly 20 to 30 minutes and be conducted within the next week or two.

25. Would you be willing to complete an additional interview on the topic of bail and money bond?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, I am willing to complete an interview.
- No, I do not want to complete an interview.

Thank you for completing this survey!

Appendix B

Released Defendants Survey

Please answer all questions honestly. Ask a George Mason researcher for clarification if you do not understand a question.

1. ID number

.....

2. I was released:

Mark only one oval.

- On recognizance
 On a money bond

**Answer Questions # 3 - 5 if you paid a money bond.
Otherwise, please skip to Question # 6.**

3. The amount of my most recent bond was set at:

Mark only one oval.

- \$1 to \$500
 \$501 to \$1,000
 \$1,001 to \$5,000
 \$5,001 to \$10,000
 \$10,001 to \$25,000
 \$25,001 to \$50,000
 \$50,001 to \$100,000
 \$100,001 or more

4. How was your bond posted?

Mark only one oval.

- Paid the court directly
 I used a bail bondsman
 Other:

5. How was the bond paid for?*Check all that apply.*

- I paid
- My family paid
- My friends paid
- Other:

6. Before being released, I was in jail for:*Mark only one oval.*

- 1 to 3 days
- 4 to 7 days
- 8 to 14 days
- 15 to 30 days
- 31 to 60 days
- 61 days or more

7. I had a job before I was arrested.*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No (skip to question # 9)

8. I lost my job because I was in jail.*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

9. Before being arrested, I was:*Mark only one oval.*

- Living with my family
- Living with roommates
- Living alone
- Living in a shelter or motel
- Living on the street
- Other:

10. I have been living in this arrangement for:*Mark only one oval.*

- Up to 1 month
- 1 to 3 months
- 3 to 6 months
- 6 or more months
- Other:

11. I live in the same place as before I was in jail.*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No 32
- I don't know

12. Being in jail improved my relationship with my family.*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

13. Pretrial Supervision has been helpful for me.*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

14. Are you a parent or guardian of one or more children?*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No (skip to question 16)

15. Being in jail changed the living situation for a child in my custody.*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

16. I have posted bond for a prior arrest.*Check all that apply.*

- No, I have no prior arrests
- No, I wasn't offered bond
- No, I was released on recognizance
- Yes, I paid the court directly
- Yes, I used a bail bondsman
- Other:

Please tell us your opinion on the following statements.**17. My most recent bond hearing was fair.***Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

18. I was treated with respect during my most recent bond hearing.*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

19. The most recent bond amount set for me was fair.*(Only answer if you had a money bond)**Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

20. Paying a money bond encourages people to come to court.*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

21. Paying a money bond encourages people to follow the law.*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

22. In what year were you born?

.....

23. Please check the boxes that best reflect your racial and ethnic identity.*Check all that apply.*

- White
- African American
- Hispanic
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Native American or American Indian
- Other:

24. Please select the option below that best reflects your education level.*Mark only one oval.*

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college
- Associate degree
- College degree
- Advanced degree (e.g. Masters, Doctorate)
- Other:

Thank you for completing this survey! We appreciate your time and insight. When you are finished, please put the survey inside the folder and return it to one of the researchers.

Appendix C

MONEY BAIL PROCESS EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This research is being conducted to understand the reasons behind why defendants do not post money bond, and what potential consequences arise from not posting this bond. For those defendants who have been released, we are interested in understanding perceptions of bail and money bond, and the potential consequences of the bail process. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a brief survey lasting roughly 10 minutes and/or will be asked to participate in an interview with a researcher. Interviews will be semi-structured and will focus on understanding your experiences with money bail, and the perceptions you have of this process. Interviews should last no more than 30 minutes. Interviews may be audio-recorded based on subjects' permission.

RISKS

There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research.

BENEFITS

There are no benefits to you as a participant other than to help further research on the bail process in general, and money bond in particular. Participation in this research will in no way influence the outcome of your pending case. This study will help researchers understand experiences and perspectives of bail, as well the decisions made around bail.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The data collected in this study will be confidential. Surveys and interviews will not include information that can be used to identify you (such as your name and locations). Interviews may be audio recorded on a device that is password protected and can be accessed only by the graduate research student, undergraduate student and Principal Investigator. You may choose not to have the interview audio recorded, in which case notes of the interview will be taken during the interview. Audio-recorded interviews will be transferred to a password-protected computer, at which point they will be deleted from the audio recorder. Transcripts of the recordings will be made and interview notes will be typed up and kept on a password protected computer, accessible also only by the graduate research student. After transcripts are made, the audio recordings will be deleted from the password-protected computer. Transcripts will be deleted from the password-protected computer following a 5-year time period. Study data will also be accessible to the Principal Investigator, Dr. David Wilson and undergraduate student. Overall findings from the project will potentially be disseminated through various academic outlets, such as conference presentations and scholarly journals.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If you decide not to participate or if you withdraw from the study, there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. There are no costs to you or any other party.

CONTACT

This research is being conducted by Dr. David Wilson, Catherine Kimbrell and Jemily Hayek at George Mason University. They may be reached at 703-993-4701 for questions or to report a

research-related problem. You may contact the George Mason University Office of Research Integrity & Assurance at 703-993-4121 if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research.

CONSENT

I have read this form, all of my questions have been answered by the research staff, and I agree to participate in this study.

If you will be participating in an interview, please let the researcher know whether or not you agree to have your interview audio recorded.