



# MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PAUL PENZONE  
SHERIFF



May 8, 2019

Maricopa County Law Enforcement Partners,

Please see the attached memorandum from Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery for a detailed explanation to the guidance resulting in changes in the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office's booking process that will take effect immediately.

Prior to changes described below, defendants booked on warrants were being released from jail prior to an initial appearance judge. This practice raised concern with the Courts as it created several issues conflicting with requirements of electronic monitoring for certain crimes, victim's rights, and a judge's assurance that bail is appropriate.

Based on the legal guidance received, effective immediately, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office can no longer accept bond payment for individuals circumventing a required initial appearance with the court. Additionally, the MCSO bonds and fines window can no longer accept bond payment by individuals with warrants to avoid arrest and booking into the MCSO jail system. I understand that this has been a practice in the past to avoid taking officers off the street, but based on the legal opinion received, law enforcement officers can no longer facilitate release on warrants prior to defendants appearing in front of a judge in person prior to release from custody.

As always, I look forward to a continued partnership with my fellow law enforcement colleagues in the interest of public safety. Thank-you in advance for your cooperation in these matters. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss furthermore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Penzone".

Paul Penzone  
Maricopa County Sheriff