

## **Bond Proceedings in Lexington County**

Bond proceedings in Lexington County are conducted twice a day by the Lexington County Magistrates, including weekends and holidays. The bond proceeding takes place at the Lexington County Bond Court located in the Lexington County Sheriff's Department at 521 Gibson Road, Lexington, SC 29072. Two things are usually accomplished in this proceeding. First, the defendant is advised of the nature of the charges and is also advised of the rights afforded to him by the law. Second, a bond is set by the magistrate. If a defendant is charged with a capital offense, or one which might be punishable by life imprisonment, however, the magistrate, by law, cannot set the bond. It must be set by a Circuit Court Judge. Also, the magistrate might deny bond in certain cases involving violent crimes. Defendants are not required to enter a plea at the bond proceeding. Bond proceedings are governed by a number of statutes and an order from the Chief Justice, with which every magistrate must comply.

Any person charged with a noncapital offense is entitled to be released on a personal recognizance bond, without surety, unless the court determines in its discretion that such a release will not reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required or unreasonable danger to the community will result.

Bonds are conducted every day at the Lexington County Bond Court. Hours are 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. weekends and holidays. Victims are entitled to attend bond hearings and/or advise the magistrate of problems they anticipate encountering if a defendant is released on bond.