

A “good behaviour bond” is a common way to describe a Queensland court order requiring a person to behave well for a set period. In Queensland, the relevant sentencing order is generally a **recognisance order** under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 (Qld)*. The exact terms depend on the order made by the court.

A bond may allow someone to remain in the community instead of receiving a more restrictive penalty. But it is still a court order, and breaching its conditions can bring the person back before the court. This guide explains the basics of a **good behaviour bond QLD**, how it compares with probation, and what to consider if you need a criminal lawyer in Brisbane.

What does a good behaviour bond involve?

A recognisance order usually requires the person to be of good behaviour for a specified period. The court may also require them to appear for sentence if called upon during that period. In some cases, the order can include other conditions. The written order is what matters: do not assume the conditions are identical from one case to another.

Depending on the circumstances and the applicable law, a court may make a recognisance order with or without recording a conviction. That distinction can matter, but it does not mean the case has simply disappeared. The order still has to be followed, and the outcome may have consequences that need individual legal advice—for example, when completing employment, licensing or travel paperwork.

A bond is not the same as being found not guilty. It is a sentencing outcome made after the court has dealt with the charge, and it may require the person to comply with conditions for a period of time.

How long does a bond last, and what are the conditions?

The length and conditions depend on the order and the sentencing law that applies. A recognisance may run for a period set by the court, subject to statutory limits. Read the order carefully and ask your lawyer or the court registry to explain anything unclear.

Common requirements may include:

- being of good behaviour during the stated period;
- appearing before the court if called upon; and
- complying with any additional conditions written into the order.

Do not rely on a verbal summary if the written conditions are available. Keep a copy somewhere safe, note the end date, and get legal advice before doing anything that may conflict with a condition.

What happens if someone breaches a bond?

If the court believes a person has failed to comply with a recognisance order, it may require them to return to court. The court can then deal with the original offence in accordance with the law and the circumstances. A new offence committed during the [site down troubleshooting](#) bond period may also be dealt with separately.

A missed appointment, misunderstanding or alleged breach should not be ignored. Get advice promptly, keep any relevant messages or documents, and find out whether a court date or notice has been issued. If you cannot attend court, do not simply stay away: ask a lawyer urgently what steps are available.

Probation vs bond in Brisbane

People often ask about **probation vs bond Brisbane** because both can allow someone to stay in the community. They are not interchangeable. A recognisance order generally focuses on good behaviour and the conditions written into the order. A probation order involves supervision by a corrective services officer and may require the person to report, follow directions and comply with other conditions.

Probation can involve more active oversight than a bond. Whether either option is available or appropriate depends on the charge, the person's history, the facts, the sentencing law and the information put before the court. A lawyer can explain the likely options, but no lawyer can promise which order a magistrate or judge will make.

Issue	Recognisance ("bond")	Probation order
Basic idea	A court order requiring compliance with stated conditions, commonly including good behaviour.	A community-based order involving supervision by corrective services.
Supervision	Not generally the same kind of ongoing officer supervision as probation; check the actual order.	Usually involves reporting and supervision requirements.
Conditions	Set by the court and recorded in the order.	Set by the court and may include supervision-related requirements.
What to check	Duration, conditions, and any requirement to return to court.	Reporting arrangements, directions and all other conditions.

This is a general comparison, not a substitute for checking the legislation and the exact order in an individual case. Other **sentencing options QLD** may include a fine, community service, a suspended sentence or imprisonment, depending on the offence and the court's powers.



What should you do after an arrest or a police call?

A police call can mean many things: a request to attend an interview, an update about an investigation, or a direction to appear at a station. An arrest may create more immediate deadlines. In either situation, stay calm and find out what is being asked before taking action.

1. **Ask what the matter is about.** Note the officer's name, station, phone number, reference number and any requested attendance time. You can ask whether you are under arrest, required to attend, or being asked to take part in a voluntary interview.

2. **Do not guess or fill gaps.** Avoid discussing the facts of the allegation in detail over the phone or by text before getting legal advice. Do not delete messages, alter records or contact a complainant or witness about their evidence.
3. **Write down a timeline before calling a lawyer.** Record what happened, when and where, who was present, what police said, and any upcoming dates. Separate what you remember from what you have been told by someone else.
4. **Keep relevant material.** Save call logs, messages, emails, documents and any bail paperwork. Do not post about the matter on social media.
5. **Get advice promptly.** If police want to interview you, ask a lawyer about your rights and options before the interview. If you are under arrest, ask to speak with a lawyer and follow lawful directions.

Do not assume that attending an interview is harmless just because police describe it as informal. Your options depend on your circumstances, the police process and the allegation. A criminal lawyer can explain the risks and help you decide how to respond lawfully.

Bail and urgent court help

Bail is different from a good behaviour bond. **Bail applies while a criminal case is still before the court**; it sets the terms on which an accused person may remain in the community while the case is unresolved. A bond is a sentencing outcome. Bail conditions may include reporting, residence requirements, restrictions on contact or other terms. The actual conditions are set out in the bail documents.

If you have been arrested and refused bail, or you are due in court soon, seek urgent legal help. Ask the police or court staff what is happening next, and keep any paperwork. If you are on bail, follow every condition exactly and obtain advice before changing your address, missing a reporting appointment or contacting someone you are prohibited from contacting.

For a Brisbane court appearance, confirm the court, courtroom and arrival time. Bring the charge documents, bail papers and any other requested material. If you have a lawyer, tell them immediately about the date. If you do not, contact a criminal law firm or ask the court registry about available duty lawyer services. Availability and eligibility can vary, so do not wait until the morning of court if you can avoid it.

How to choose a criminal lawyer in Brisbane

Choose someone who regularly handles criminal matters in Queensland and can clearly explain the next steps. A confident manner is not a substitute for a realistic assessment. Be cautious of anyone who says they can guarantee a bond, dismissal or other result. The decision belongs to the court, and outcomes depend on the evidence and circumstances.

When you speak with a prospective lawyer, ask:

- How often do you appear in Queensland Magistrates Courts, including Brisbane Magistrates Court?
- Who will handle my matter day to day, and who will appear at court?
- What are the immediate deadlines and risks?
- What documents or information should I provide?
- What outcomes are legally available, and what could make them more or less likely?
- What work is included in the proposed fee, and what would cost extra?

Take your timeline and paperwork to the first appointment. Be straightforward about prior matters, bail conditions and anything that may not look helpful. Your lawyer needs the full picture to advise you properly.

Fees and billing styles: ask before work begins

Criminal lawyers may charge an hourly rate, a fixed fee for a defined stage, or a combination. A fixed fee can make budgeting easier, but check exactly what it covers. It might cover an initial advice appointment or a particular court appearance without covering later hearings, a defended hearing, expert reports or negotiations.

Before agreeing to work, ask for the costs in writing. Find out:



- the amount of any initial consultation fee;
- whether the quote includes GST and routine disbursements;
- what happens if the matter takes longer than expected or is adjourned;
- whether preparation, phone calls, travel and court appearances are charged separately;
- when invoices are issued and when payment is due; and
- whether you may be eligible for legal aid or another form of assistance.

Ask for a clear costs agreement, not just a verbal estimate. If the scope changes, ask the lawyer to explain the new cost before extra work is done. Good advice should be clear about fees as well as legal options.

What to take to a first appointment

- your written timeline;
- charge documents, police notices, bail papers and court dates;
- relevant messages, emails, photographs or records;
- details of any witnesses or people who may have useful information; and
- a list of questions about the process, likely next steps and costs.

Key points about good behaviour bonds in Queensland

A good behaviour bond is commonly a recognisance order, but its exact effect depends on the written terms and the law that applies. It is different from probation, which generally involves supervision, and different from bail, which applies before a case is resolved. If police contact you or a court date is approaching, make a timeline, preserve relevant records and get advice early. Ask any lawyer to explain the available sentencing options and fees clearly—and be wary of promises about guaranteed results.

This article provides general information, not legal advice. Queensland laws and court processes can change, and the right advice depends on the particular charge, evidence and court order.