The Definitive Guide to Surety Bond Marketing

Revision 22614

Special Thanks

We want to thank the many independent insurance agents who have given us feedback over the past 10 years. Your insights have made our company better as we champion proven solutions in surety bonding.

We want to thank our surety bond companies whose commitment to innovation has helped us improve surety bonding for all.



What's in the e-Bond Marketing Kit?

Chapter 1: The New Math of Surety Bonding Using OneClick and the AMS360 Single Point of Entry API

 Chapter 2: Customizable Surety Bond Marketing Materials
Flyer templates for Court, Dishonesty, ERISA Bonds, and more...
Chapter 3: Social Media content for use or

Chapter 3: Social Media content for use or inspiration

Afterword About Surety Solutions, LLC Get Started with OneClick

How to use this e-book

This e-bond Marketing Kit will help you market surety bonds. It will help you streamline processes in AMS360. We want to save you time, to take some "busy work" off of your plate so you can go further, faster. You will find proven marketing tools we have used to build this line of business.

It's important that you know that this e-book is free with no strings attached. Feel free to use this content to better market surety bonds or adapt it to sell another line of insurance. From one agency to another, we hope your business thrives this year.

We will continue to create content that helps your business as we receive feedback from agents just like you. Please let us know what training or tools you need to be more successful. (Send requests to: duke@suretysolutionsllc.com). We promise to respond to every email and to consider creating whatever content would be most helpful to you and your business.



Welcome

As independent brokers, we interact with insurance agents on a daily basis. We ask questions and we have been listening. We understand the unique pressures that you face and are here to help. You are also looking for automated tools to streamline processing. If you're like us, you are looking for more revenue this year. Surety Bonds just might be the low lying fruit your agency will use to grow your profits this year. This eBook will equip you to market and sell Surety Bonds. We believe marketing/selling/ writing Surety Bonds just might become the easiest line you do. You might be skeptical. Agents tell us they avoid writing surety bonds because bonds take more time than they're worth, and that used to be true.

Not any more.

That was before we spent 5 years building the first and only Comparative Engine for Surety Bonds that we call OneClick. Imagine the technology of Kayak.com (travel) and TurboTax (easy document preparation) coming together to make surety bonds faster, easier, and more profitable than ever. OneClick enables local agents to execute in minutes what used to take hours. With this advancement, Surety bonds are the new revenue stream ready and waiting to be maximized for your agency.

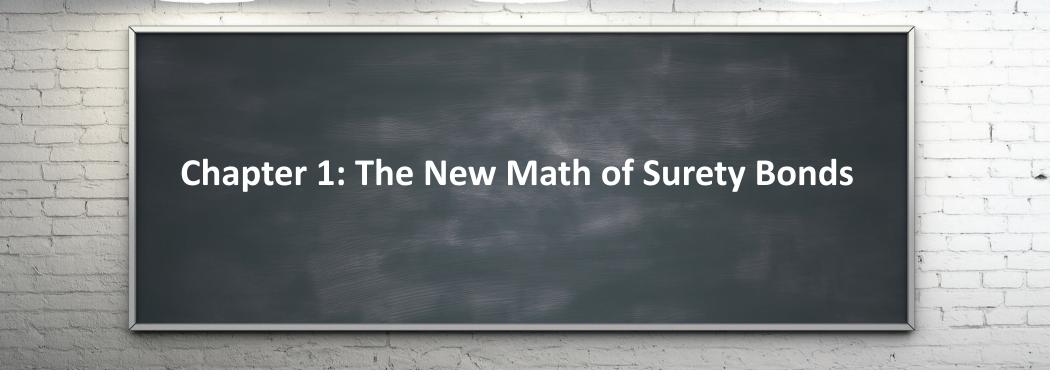
We realize that many insurance agents have never marketed Surety Bonds in the past. What follows are a series of proven marketing tools that we have used with great success for years. We want to offer these tools to you free of charge. Think of it as our way of saying thank you as we partner to build our businesses together.

Corban Enns

SMEnn

Founder & President Surety Solutions, LLC





Surety Bonds are old. Ancient really. The earliest known record of a contract suretyship is a Mesopotamian tablet written around 2750 BC. Unfortunately, for many insurance agents the process of writing a Surety Bond has not advanced much since. As we've mentioned, many agents attempt to steer clear of bonds when at all possible. Do you know how much time it currently takes you to write a surety Bond? Most agents don't.

How Much Time Do Your Bonds Take?



Total:

Many are in the dark about how much their current surety bond writing is costing them...

Most agents don't believe bonds ROI. Perhaps you experienced this familiar routine. You submit an application to a Surety Company only to wait a day or two or three for them to come back and say "we can't issue this bond because your clients credit is less than pristine" You can work through this same process with 2 or 3 other companies and still not have a bond for your client or be forced to pay too much. Many agents have simply accepted this as the way it is. But...

SURETY ONE CLICK is changing all the rules....

Our OneClick online software platform automates what has been largely a manual process since the stone ages. How? With OneClick, agents enter some basic client info (5 min)and submit only one application (which immediately pulls credit and offer real-time underwriting) to over 30 surety companies, and then instantly providing you with real-time quotes from up to 30 of the nation's top surety bond companies. OneClick offers a level of efficiency, comparative options and transparency never before experienced in the industry.

What the experts are saying about OneClick...

"I have been working in Commercial Surety for Decades...and OneClick is light years ahead of any other agency system that I have seen. Surety Solutions has clearly surpassed any other bond purchasing system in the marketplace."

- Hellen A. Lally, Underwriter, The Westfield Group



A comparison of the old approach with OneClick begs the question.

How much time would it take to achieve the same number of quotes through the old approach?



Let's crunch the numbers...



2 minutes to pull credit on an applicant 5 minutes to complete each application 3 minutes to draft your submission 3 minutes to record in your agency systems Х 30 Surety Bond Companies + 5 minutes to prepare your quotes 5 minutes to record in your agency systems + 3 minutes to present to your client $(2 + 5 + 3 + 3) \times 30 + 5 + 5 + 3...$

6 hours 43 minutes

That's 6 hrs 43 minutes to write one bond!

This figure does not include any time spent waiting on a surety company to get back to you with a quote. Since some delay is expected, go ahead and account for whatever wait time you normally expect when seeking a quote. Whether your wait time is 2 hrs or 2 days, its anything but instant.

Some agents only submit one application to one company and present my client with whatever quote they come back with. That's great until you run into non-standard folks. That's all well and good until we realize that there are hundreds of bonds in each State and the rates and commissions vary widely from bond to bond. Agents did this because they didn't have any other choice. All that's changed.

You now get the same result in 5 minutes with OneClick.

Agents everywhere are choosing the quick and easy, multiple quotes, 5 minute option over the no options or 6hrs 43 min (+ wait time) option.

That's 80.6 times faster!



I know, that's some crazy-good math working for you!



But wait, it get's even better...

for those who use Vertafore's AMS360 as their Client Management System (CRM). Now with the introduction of an AMS360 API, surety bond processing time will immediately be cut in half providing further incentive for busy agents to abandon the traditional surety writing process.





What this means for AMS360 users:

1. Simple. Writing Surety Bonds is now easier than ever online.

2. Time-saving. Single-point of entry cuts processing time in more than 85% off traditional workflow.

3. Automation. Data entered into OneClick simultaneously syncs with AMS360. Data entered into AMS360 also syncs the other direction.

4. In the Cloud. Multiple users can access client information in the Cloud anytime and can generate reports and keep track of your client with ease on the go or over the weekend.





Now for the math Agents care the most about.

Commissions.

At this point, many agents are thinking "If your software does the lion-share of the work, then you are going to take the lion-share of my commission." That's a logical assumption, but its simply not true.

What if I told you after being given access to all these markets and receiving so many instant quotes, you could still make up to 30% commission on a Surety Bond?

Agents all over are doing just that as they place standard and non-standard business through OneClick.



We pay up to 30% Commissions on many bonds.





All of this means you can now spend less time processing surety bonds and more time doing what you love- making your business profitable.

Over the years our agency has discovered- you can have the best flyers, marketing, etc. but if you don't have the markets or infrastructure then you're never going to make the sale. So view us as your backend to make sure that when you get the opportunity, you nail it.

We seek to provide you with the best markets and great commissions, instantly. No guess work. No delays. OneClick is Surety Bonds Made Easy.

OneClick along with the Resources included in this e-Bond Marketing Kit are intended to function as a one-two punch for writing more Surety Bonds and fully maximizing this lucrative revenue stream. We believe that through writing surety through OneClick and utilizing the resources we have included in the chapters that follow, you can see significant growth in your business this year.

Take a Test Drive of OneClick today! http://www.suretysolutionsllc.com/NetVu

Chapter 2: Customizable Bond Marketing Flyers







What is a Contractor License & Permit Bond?

Like all Surety Bonds, a license and permit bond is a legally enforceable contract that binds the three parties together. Contractor Bond's bind; the contractor (principal), the state agency (obligee), and the surety bond company together. Contractor bonds are not insurance for Contractors, but rather protect citizens or the regulatory body of a given state from construction professionals who fail to meet their license or contractual obligations.

How to Market and Sell Contractor License & Permit Bonds

1) Acquire a lead list which you market to through traditional channels (Mailing flyers/post cards to those close to renewal, cold calls, email drip campaigns). Sales Hint: Most state agencies provide contact information for all licensed Contractors in their jurisdiction on their website. For State-by-State listing of State Licensing agencies visit: http://www.nascla.org/licensing_information

2) Market through local channels. You can do this by joining local contractor associations, advertising at Construction supply stores, ranking for keywords through Google+ Local, or by utilizing any other local advertising you have to get the word out that you are ready and able to help local contractors with their Contractor Bonds. **Sales Hint: If you have General Liability lines available, they are a natural bundle opportunity with a Contractor Bond. Market them as a package when possible.**

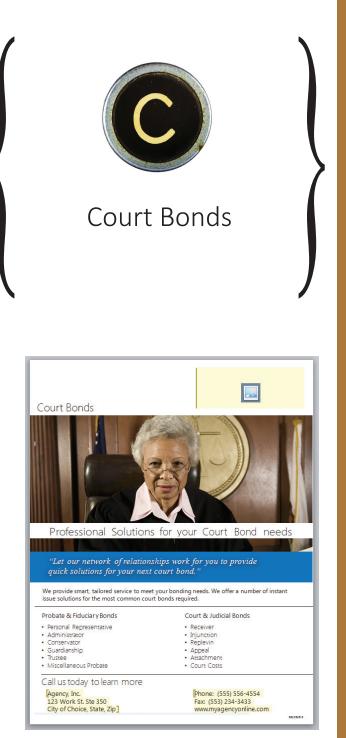
What is a Court Bond?

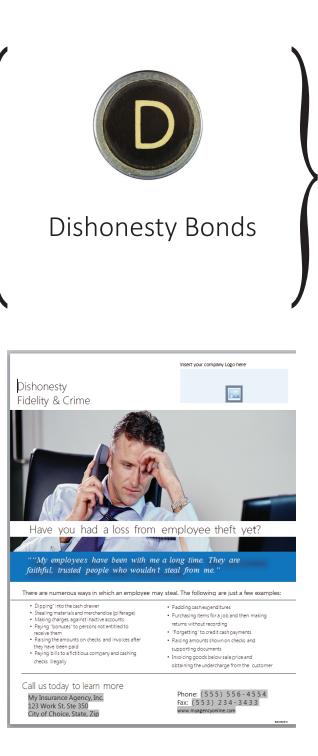
A 'Court Bond' is one that is filed in connection with an action at law. Court bonds fall into two main categories; Fiduciary & Judicial Bonds. The main difference between a Fiduciary Bond and a Judicial Bond is that a Fiduciary Bond guarantees only honesty and faithful performance of a duty. A Judicial Bond guarantees payment of a sum of money that would be required by a final verdict in a court action. Sales Hint: Judicial Bonds are generally much easier to underwrite and therefore are often an easier 'sell' than a Judicial Bond that will often require collateral.

How to Market and Sell Court Bonds

1) Network with Legal Professionals. Most legal professionals have 1 or 2 insurance agents that they refer all of their business through. Therefore, cold marketing will be unlikely to break through established relationships. Also, most court bonds have a similar cost across agencies and carriers so service is what sells this line of business. **Sales Hint: You will likely want to use the flyer provided as a handout that you give to a legal professional after building rapport at an appointment or trade expo.**

2) Educate yourself in as many court related obligations as possible. Personal Representative bonds are a different bond class than a Guardianship but are both "judicial" bond types. The more you know, the greater your chance of locking in a solid partnership with a local law firm.





What is a Dishonesty Bond?

Dishonesty Bonds are more like an insurance policy in that they protect the Principal against loss from employee theft. There are 2 main coverage types with dishonesty products; 1st Party Coverage found in most dishonesty bonds and 3rd Party Coverage as found in most Business Service or Janitorial Bonds.

You can actually sell 2 bonds to a single client depending on the nature of their exposure; a dishonesty bond to protect the insured against employee theft and a business service bond to protect the insured's customers against theft from an employee.

How to Market and Sell Dishonesty Bonds

1) Cross-sell with all Commercial Clients. Of all the surety bonds out there, Dishonesty bonds are perhaps the most universal for any business that has employees. Which you can market to through traditional channels (Mailing flyers/post cards to those close to renewal, cold calls, e-mail drip campaigns). **Sales Hint: Attempt to bundle this coverage with other commercial lines.**

2) Market through local channels. You can market Dishonesty bonds to any business, through mainstream marketing, ranking for keywords through Google+ Local, or by utilizing any other local advertising. You have to get the word out that you are ready and able to protect business owners from employee theft. Sales Hint: Use local examples of employee theft to the build the need. You can search Google for recent news stories involving employee theft and reference these on your blog or print advertising.

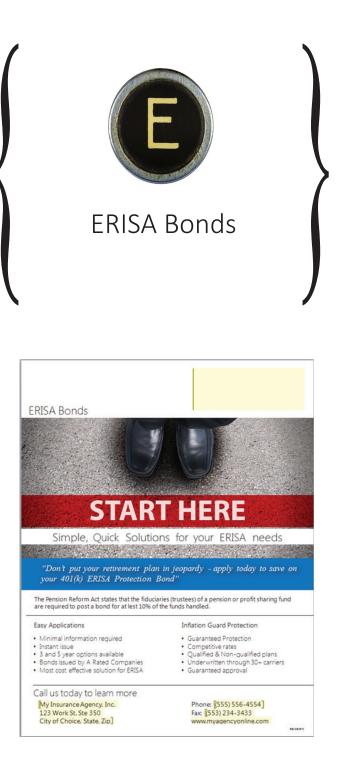
What is an ERISA Bond?

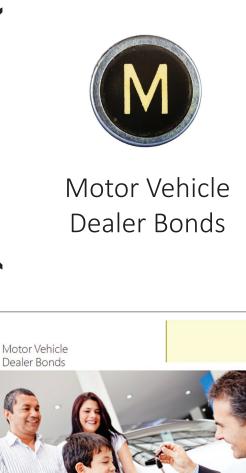
The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) was enacted to protect employee benefit plans against loss by acts of fraud or dishonesty. The statute instituted a fidelity bond requirement for plan trustees, and it defined the coverage limit requirements. The ERISA policy must equal 10% of the funds handled by a trustee or fiduciary with a minimum limit of \$1,000 per plan and a maximum limit of \$500,000 per plan. The ERISA bond is an expensive solution to this requirement.

How to Market and Sell ERISA Bonds

1) Like most surety bonds, they are mandatory and the ERISA is no exception to the rule. Every 401(k) plan must have this coverage which means your target market will be other businesses. Reach out to your existing book and make sure that all of your clients have this requirement covered with a bond. **Sales Hint: The 3 year ERISA bond is generally the least expensive solution for this need and it is encouraged over a BOP inclusion to ensure that it is always maintained.**

2) Market through local channels such as CPA firms and financial advisors. They are of then the party that creates or administers the plans and can give you a steady referral stream for this line of business. **Sales Hint: While not an expensive bond, this is an easy line of business that can help bulk up your book of business. Building a referral network with a few CPA's and financial planners/advisors can bring a good boost of continual sales.**





Don't let a bond stop you from doing what you love

"I never realized a simple surety bond could stop me from building the business of my dreams."

New and Used Car Dealers must secure the proper license, insurance and surety bond to be compliant. Here are some highlights of our Specialty MVD Bond Program:

Excellent carries support with over 30 Insurance Companies to quote your bond Discounts for dealers participating in Dealer Associations Competitive rates for all types of applicants. Instant quotes through our online comparative rater	Financing available for higher premiums Discounts for multiple year bonds Great rates for companies new in business Pay with credit card or ACH for faster service Quotes for higher risk or challenged credit companies
Call us today to learn more	

Phone: (555) 556-4554

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My Insurance Agency, Inc. 123 Work St. Ste 350 City of Choice, State, Zin

What is a Motor Vehicle Dealer Bond

The Motor Vehicle Dealer bond, also known as a MVD or Used Car Dealer Bond is a compliance and financial guarantee bond for car dealers. The bond protects consumers but also suppliers such as auction houses and other industries providing goods or services to dealers. The bond amounts vary but many of these types are considered higher risk due to the claims associated with them. As such, the rate or cost for these bonds is often higher than many other license & permit bonds.

How to Market and Sell MVD Bonds

1) Acquire a lead list which you market to through traditional channels (Mailing flyers/post cards to those close to renewal, cold calls, e-mail drip campaigns). Sales Hint: In some states, all MVD bonds renew on the same date (e.g. March 31st). So coordinate your marketing to target car dealers 120-90-60 days before the renewal date for maximum impact.

2) Market through local channels. You can do this by joining car dealer associations, advertising at car auctions, seeking to rank for keywords through Google+ Local, or by utilizing any other local advertising you have to get the word out that you are ready and able to help Car dealers with their MVD Bonds. **Sales Hint: This is a competitive market due to the sheer volume of premium associated to this line of business. Make sure your using OneClick to get the best rates possible for any type of risk to increase your chances for writing this bond type.**

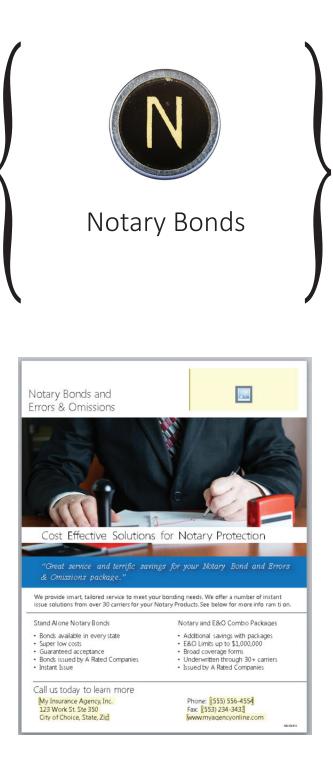
What is a Notary Bond

In most states, notaries are required by law to purchase and maintain a surety bond for their entire term of office. Notary bonds are the most common form of Public Official Bonds found in the industry. Notaries are bonded because of their responsibilities handling sensitive documents affecting the personal rights and valuable property of citizens. Their unintentional mistakes or intentional misconduct can have devastating financial impact. Bonds often range from \$500 to \$15,000 depending on state law.

How to Market and Sell Notary Bonds

1) Notary bonds are easy to write but aren't always easy money because their cost is so low. The key to selling notary bonds is having an efficient and effective system in place. These bond are often \$50 or so for a 4 year bond term so anytime spent on these will LOSE you money vs. MAKE you money. **Sales Hint: Notary bonds and E&O policies through OneClick have all the necessary forms, letters, and notices to make this sale as efficient as possible.**

2) Notary bonds don't protect the notary, they protect the public. Thus, the best thing you can do for your client is to bundle the sale with E&O insurance. The E&O will help bring your overall premium up but will also protect your insured; which is our number one goal. **Sales Hint: Title, Escrow, and Mortgage Companies often have a number of large numbers of notaries on hand. Build a relationship with your local financial institutions to help build your book of business.**



Chapter 3: Social Media Marketing Content

"It's hard to find things that won't sell online."

– Jeff Bezos, founder, Amazon

Twitter

The first rule of social media is don't broadcast, engage. So I realize that I run the risk of assisting you in shooting yourself in the foot as I give you a series of broadcast tweets to be used in selling Surety Bonds. Please use these sparingly and only after you have built a reputations on Social Media as a company that talks to people. Not a company that only talks about itself.

The quote above also applies to social media. Without a great headline, the content in the world is invisible. People are reading less copy these days (all the more reason to use video) which means your headline needs to scan well. First, people need to quickly know what to expect from your content. Secondly, your headline needs to be intriguing enough to give up 2 minutes of their time.



Twitter Tips

- Experiment with Contests, New products, a great photo, educational pieces, Interesting facts about your business or industry, a special event, links to content you have created. If your blog is digital home-base, then twitter is your primary broadcast channel.
- Include links in every tweet that points to a landing page or blog post which features the product you are featuring
- Use #hashtags to become more discoverable in searches.
- Peruse #hashtags that are being used frequently in your industry and find meaningful ways to add to the conversation.
- Respond to every question, interaction, or comment in social media.
- Use bitly.com to shorten links when necessary

Twitter asks "what are you doing?" and provides you with only 140 characters to respond. Here are tweets in several bond categories that you can use, remix, or to help inspire as you generate your own.

Contractor Bond Tweets

- 1. Get a Contractor bond in 5 minutes, and get back to what you love—making your business proftiable (link) #contractorbonds
- 2. See how easy it is to get an inexpensive Contractor Bond online (link) #contractorbonds #construction
- 3. The secret to getting the cheapest Contractor Bond, instantly (link) #contractorbonds
- 4. How to get a Contractor Bond and save money fast (link) #contractorbonds
- 5. Get Free online quotes on your Contractor Bond (link)
- Need a Contractor Bond? Get the cheapest rates from the best companies today! (link) #construction #contractors
- Looking for a Contractor Bond quick and easy? You have come to the right place (link) #construction

Learn more about placing Contractor Bonds through OneClick with great commission <u>here</u>.

"Almost overnight, the Internet's gone from a technical wonder to a business must."

– Bill Schrader



"Social Media is about the people! Not about your business. Provide for the people and the people will provide for you."

- Matt Goulart

Court Bond Tweets

- 1. Do you need a court bond? You have come to the right place (Link) #courtbonds
- Instant Court bonds w/ the Best Rates from the Best Companies. (link) #conservator #replevin #costbonds #plaintiffbonds #guardianshipbonds
- 3. Get Free Court bond quotes instantly (link) #courtbonds #insurance
- 4. Looking for a Court Bond? Look no further. We have the best rates from up to 30 carriers. (link) #courtbonds #costbonds #conservator
- Get a Court Bond in 5 minutes, and get on with your life. (link) #courtbonds

Learn more about placing Court Bonds through OneClick with great commission here.

"Social Media is one area of business where you don't need to outspend your competitors in order to beat them." - Hal Stokes

Dishonesty Bond Tweets

- 1. Have you been the victim of employee-theft yet? Learn more about how to protect yourself here (link) #smallbusiness #insurance
- 2. When purchasing business insurance, focus on what you need, not merly on renewing what you have (link) #insurance #suretybonds
- 3. Dishonesty Bonds are the new firewall for small business owners. Consider adding this crucial coverage today (link) #insur ance #peaceofmind
- 4. Most business owners don't plan on employees stealing from them, but insurance is for the unexpected. Learn more (link) #peaceofmind
- 5. Want peace of mind that you are covered from employee theft? Get a dishonesty bond and worry no more (link)
- 6. See how easy it is to cover your business from employee theft? (link) #insurance #peaceofmind

Sales Tip: With the next series of tweets you can incorporate a technique known as "newsjacking." Google search "Employee Theft" and find a current instance in the news. Write a short blog post about this event (including a link to the story) and then eductate your readers on the value of having "Dishonesty Bond coverage."

Learn more about placing Dishonesty Bonds through OneClick with great commission here.



ERISA Bond Tweets

- Do you have an employee benefit plan? Then you need an ERISA bond. Get Free, Real-time Quotes now (link) #ERISAbonds
- 2. Protect your employees from pension fraud with and an ERISA bond. Get FREE quotes! (link) #ERISAbonds
- People trust their employee benefits to be there when they need them. Make sure they are with and ERISA Bond! (link) #ERISAbonds
- 4. ERISA Bonds are required by law for employee benefit plans. We'll find the best rates quickly so you can get back to work (link) #ERISAbonds

Learn more about placing ERISA Bonds through OneClick with great commission here.

"People don't care about your business. They care about their problems. Be the solution that they're looking for." -Melonie Dodaro

Notary Bonds Tweets

- 1. Get a notary bond in 5 minutes, and get back to what you love—making your business profitable (link) #notarybonds
- 2. See how easy it is to get a Notary Bond on the cheap (link) #notarybonds
- 3. The secret to getting the cheapest Notary Bond, instantly (link) #notarybonds
- 4. How to get a Notary Bond and save money fast (link) #notarybonds
- 5. Get Free online quotes on your Notary Bond (link)
- 6. Need a Notary Bond? Get the cheapest rates from the best companies today! (link) #notary
- 7. Looking for a Notary Bond quick and easy? You have come to the right place (link) #notary

Learn more about placing Notary Bonds through OneClick with great commission here.

"New marketing is about the relationships, not the medium." – Ben Grossman

Motor Vehicle Dealer Bonds

- 1. Need a car dealer bond? Look no further. Get free quotes from the best companies here (link) #MVDbonds #cardealers
- 2. See how easy is to get your Motor Vehicle Dealer Bond (link) #MVDbonds #cardealers
- 3. Get a MVD Bond with bad credit without breaking the bank (link) #MVDbonds
- 4. Get FREE online quotes for your Car Dealer Bonds (link) #MVDbonds
- 5. See how easy it is to get a Motor Vehicle Dealer bond online (link) #MVDbonds

Learn more about placing MVD Bonds through OneClick with great commission here.



Appendix 1: Glossary of Surety Terms

Surety Bond: A three party instrument consisting of the Principal (applicant), Obligee (entity requiring the bond) and the Surety (the insurance company) used to ensure the completion or observance of contractual obligations. A Surety Bond is NOT insurance but a line of credit. In the event of a claim or loss by the Surety the Principal is responsible to reimburse the surety for the loss.

Principal: The individual or business whose obligations are guaranteed by the bond.

Obligee: A party or person to whom another is bound by contract or another legal procedure.

Surety: A person (or entity), who is legally responsible for the contracts, debt, delinquency, or liability of another.

Indemnity Agreement: Contract clause that identifies who is to be responsible if liabilities arise and often transfer one party's liability for his or her wrongful acts to the other party.

Term: The period of time for which a bond is issued. Many bonds are renewed annually, but Principals can often save money be extending the term to multiple years with a carrier.

Penalty: The amount of the bond (e.g. \$20,000 Oregon Residential Contractor Bond)

Damages: The financial compensation sought out in the event of a claim.



Get Started Today with OneClick!

"Register as a Broker and Get started with OneClick"

www.SuretySolutionllc.com/OneClick





Check out our Surety Software



For more information or to speak to a Surety Expert, please feel free to call 866-722-9239.

About the Authors



Corban Enns is the President/Founder of Surety Solutions, LLC, a premiere Surety Bond Broker. Corban is a seasoned Surety professional and a recognized leader in the Industry. He's an accomplished speaker and provides consulting work for private and public entities. His forward thinking has resulted in advancements in surety software, automation and electronic delivery. More than anything, Corban is a problem-solver & innovator. Corban is husband to Lauren and father to his 3 year old son Cooper.



Duke Revard is the VP of Sales & Marketing at Surety Solutions, LLC. Since joining the team, Duke has created an innovative marketing strategy to tell the world about Surety Bonds. Duke writes about innovative solutions available to local insurance agents and large brokers. Duke is a writer and content creator. Duke is married to Caroline and has three daughters; Lily, Evangeline, and Isla.

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For more information please visit us online at www.suretysolutionsllc.com or view our LinkedIn Profiles for more industry infomration.

About Surety Solutions, LLC

We are Surety Bond Experts. We are a specialty insurance broker, with offices in Oregon and Texas and licensed in all 50 states. We are able to write any bond in any state at any time. We have issued over 20,000 policies across the nation over the last decade and look forward to servicing your needs.

We find Innovative Solutions. We collaborate to develop creative solutions for a variety of problems in the ever-changing insurance industry. We are pace-setters in insurance technology and write custom software when no present solutions will do. Share your problem with us today and allow us the opportunity to find the best solution for you.

We build great Relationships. Our success is directly tied to our relationships. We are committed to our clients. We have retained 95% of our client relationships since our inception 10 years ago. We have great relationships with Principles ("people who need a bond"), Local Agents, and Large Brokers. We look forward to earning your trust as well. We are also committed to our 30+ insurance carrier partnership. Without their hard work we couldn't give our clients the right product for their needs at the best price. Call us today and let's explore where we could go together.

We are committed to excellence. We work hard to get it right and are always looking to improve. We welcome feedback as we strive to improve our team, our process, and our technology. Two of our carriers recently remarked;

"Surety Solutions is the model for a perfect agency. You always have the items we ask for, you have excellent records, and you are incredibly responsive. We have never questioned anything that you have done."

- Deborah L., Underwriter

We look forward to solving your problems and building a lasting partnership. Contact us today and give us the opportunity to offer you a free comprehensive review for your insurance or bond needs.



