

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SAINT LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ORDER REGARDING BOND MOTIONS

This order addresses the recent proliferation of bond reduction motions filed in this division.¹ Almost all of the motions are boilerplate form motions. There are no specific facts recited, only conclusory allegations. Because court time is finite, bond reduction motions must comply with this order before they will be set for a hearing in court.

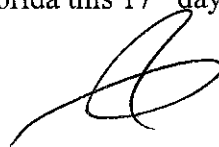
1. The motion must contain **specific facts** which would tend to support the relief requested (*e.g.*, the bond is set substantially higher than the promulgated standard bond schedule; the defendant has no prior criminal history; the defendant does not have prior VOPs or FTAs; the crime charged is not a violent or aggravated felony, etc.).

2. The motion must contain the following certification:

I hereby certify that this motion is filed in good faith, upon the exercise of my own independent and professional judgment, and that the motion is supported by the facts and applicable law. I further certify that I have personally contacted opposing counsel in an effort to resolve this issue without judicial intervention, however, the matter cannot be resolved and a hearing is necessary

Any motion that does not comply with this order will not be set for an evidentiary hearing.

DONE AND ORDERED in Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida this 17th day of July 2014.



ROBERT BELANGER
CIRCUIT JUDGE

¹ Just by way of example, between June 23 and June 26, there were 16 bond reduction motions set for a total of 180 minutes (3 full hours) of scarce court time – including a motion to set bond in an Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding VOP where the violation was a new felony arrest for Fleeing and Eluding. Another motion asked the court to “reduce” the bond; counsel was apparently unaware that the bond had been estreated and a bench warrant had been issued for a failure to appear. In many cases, boilerplate motions are filed, and it is apparent that counsel really has no idea if their motions are supported by the facts and law

Copies furnished to:

State Attorney's Office

Public Defender's Office

Office of the Regional Conflict Counsel