

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN

—  
H.P. 306 - L.D. 380

**An Act To Enhance Enforcement of Civil Orders of Arrest**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §3135**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 205, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

**§3135. Civil order of arrest**

A civil order of arrest issued under section 3134, subsection 1, or section 3136, must direct the sheriff to arrest the individual named in the order and bring the individual to a hearing any day the court is in session. In the case of a nonindividual debtor, the civil order of arrest must be issued for the arrest of any officer, director or managing agent of the debtor or other agent appointed by the debtor to accept service and who was served with the disclosure subpoena.

After a civil order of arrest has been issued, the sheriff shall cause the ~~individual debtor~~ named in the order to be arrested and shall deliver the ~~individual debtor~~ without undue delay to the division of the District Court designated in the civil order of arrest or obtain from the debtor a personal recognizance bond to appear in court at the specified date and time. ~~Should the debtor fail to appear at that time a warrant may issue for the debtor's arrest.~~ The sheriff may take such steps determined necessary for the sheriff's safety or the safety of others then present, including searching the debtor for weapons, if the sheriff has a reasonable suspicion that the debtor has a weapon, and handcuffing the debtor if that is necessary to transport the debtor to the court or to cause the debtor to remain peaceably at the court. Upon arrival at the court, the sheriff shall notify the clerk or bailiff that the debtor is present and may release the debtor into the custody of the bailiff. The sheriff shall instruct the debtor that the debtor must wait at the court until released by the court or clerk. Upon release of the debtor into the custody of the bailiff, the sheriff need not remain with the debtor at the court. ~~A debtor who fails to appear for the disclosure hearing after being released upon the debtor's personal recognizance commits a Class E crime.~~

After the judgment debtor is brought to the court, the clerk shall promptly notify the judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's attorney of record in person or by telephone that the presence of one of them is required for a hearing. If a disclosure or contempt

hearing cannot be held that day due to the inability of the judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's attorney to appear or due to the absence of the judge or the inability of the court to hear the matter because of other business, the court or clerk shall release the debtor upon the debtor's personal recognizance for appearance on a date certain. ~~A debtor who fails to appear for the disclosure or contempt hearing after being released upon the debtor's personal recognizance commits a Class E crime.~~

If the debtor fails to appear at the time and place specified in a personal recognizance bond obtained by the sheriff, clerk or court, and upon request of the judgment creditor, the court shall order the Department of Labor to provide the judgment creditor with the name and address of the current or most recent employer of the debtor, if any, together with the date the employer last reported wage information concerning the debtor and issue an additional civil order of arrest pursuant to section 3134 directing the sheriff to cause the debtor named in the order to be arrested and delivered to the District Court without obtaining from the debtor a personal recognizance bond.

An order directed to the Department of Labor under this section may be served by the judgment creditor by ordinary mail, accompanied by a reasonable fee set by the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor shall respond to the judgment creditor within 20 days after receipt of the court order.

A debtor admitted to personal recognizance bond under this section shall date and sign the bond and provide the following information: date of birth, hair color, eye color, height, weight, gender, race, telephone number, name of employer, address of employer and days and hours of employment.

A debtor who fails to appear for a disclosure or contempt hearing after being released upon the debtor's personal recognizance commits a Class E crime.

Unless the judgment debtor shows good cause for failure to appear after being duly served with a disclosure subpoena under section 3123, a contempt subpoena under section 3136 or an order to appear and disclose under Title 19-A, section 2361, the debtor must be ordered to pay the costs of issuing and serving the civil order for arrest. The costs of issuing and serving the civil order for arrest are \$25 plus mileage at a rate of 42¢ per mile. The fee payable to sheriffs and their deputies for civil orders for arrest is governed by Title 30-A, section 421, subsection 6.

---

In House of Representatives, ..... 2011

Read twice and passed to be enacted.

..... Speaker

---

In Senate, ..... 2011

Read twice and passed to be enacted.

..... President

---

Approved ..... 2011

..... Governor