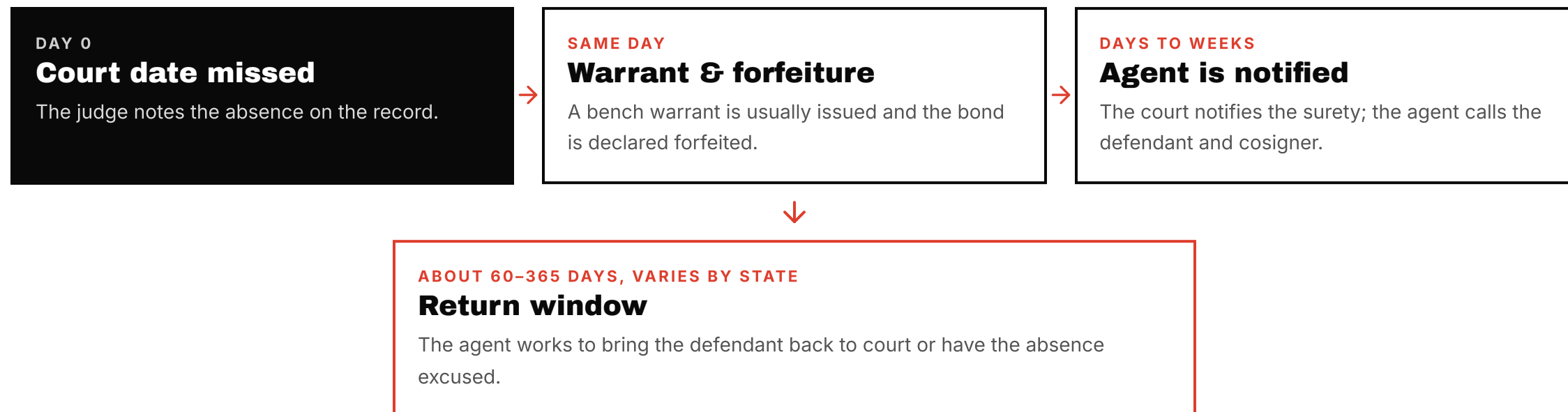


What Happens If Someone Misses Court

The usual chain of events after a failure to appear on a bail bond, and the two ways it can end.



IF THE DEFENDANT RETURNS IN TIME

- ↳ Warrant recalled; forfeiture set aside or the bond exonerated.
- ↳ Court may reinstate release, set new conditions, or hold the defendant.
- ↳ Recovery or court costs may still be owed under the contract.

IF THE WINDOW CLOSES

- ↳ Court enters judgment against the bond; the surety pays the full amount.
- ↳ The cosigner can be liable, and collateral can be used to cover the loss.
- ↳ Some states allow partial remission if the defendant is returned later.

IF YOU'RE THE COSIGNER

Call the bail agent immediately, encourage the defendant to contact their attorney about getting back on the calendar, and keep records of every contact. Acting in the first days usually costs far less than waiting.

General overview. Return windows range from about 60 to 365 days in the states where we confirmed one, and courts can recall a warrant, reset a date or extend deadlines. Consequences for the defendant can include new charges for failure to appear. Contact a criminal defense attorney right away; nothing here is legal advice.

Sources: Cal. Penal Code §§ 1305, 1305.4, 1306, 1320.5.

Source: [BailBondsMagazine.com](https://bailbondsmagazine.com) · bailbondsmagazine.com/infographics/missed-court