The Pennsylvania Parole Process

Preparation of Case File

Begin documentation gathering for parole interview. Required by law to consider facts of crime; criminal history; sentencing hearing notes; general character; physical, mental and medical health; history of family violence; adjustment to prison; victim, judge and prosecuting attorney input; recommendation of warden or superintendent.

Judge and District Attorney letters mailed to request recommendation.

OVA notifies registered victims of parole eligibility and right to provide input.

Institutional Parole Agent

Institutional Parole Agent reviews the file and gathers additional documents.

Institutional Parole Agent works with the inmate on a home plan – where the inmate plans to live -- and to apply for jobs or seek educational or vocational training.

Institutional Parole Agent conducts pre-parole interview and assessment. Agent finalizes preparation of file for decision maker.

Pre-Interview Case Review

Decision maker reviews all of the information in the inmate's file and the proposed home plan - where the inmate wants to live and work - to prepare for the interview.

Decision maker reviews compliance with the correctional plan:

Programming: educational, vocational, employment, life skills, literacy, etc.

Treatment: sex offender, drug and alcohol, mental health. Reviews assessment scores from various risk and needs assessments and evaluations.

The Parole Interview

After a review of the file, the decision maker conducts the interview with the inmate and considers ALL of the information in the file.

A Parole Decisional Instrument assists the Board in the exercise of its discretion and to provide for proper consideration of all factors.

Vote occurs in person and video conference (additional file rotation votes if required).

Post Parole Interview

If parole is denied, inmate is advised of reasons for denial and issued a review date for next parole interview.

Home plan investigation occurs for inmates granted parole. The Board must approve the proposed residence to ensure it is conducive to successful reentry.

Conditions of parole explained to inmate. Inmate attends community orientation reintegration class.

Prior to Release

Several items must be checked prior to release: drug screen; payment of victim fees; DNA sample for certain offenders; Megan's Law registration, if required; victim impact education class.

Violent offender certification. Review for detainer. Office of Victim Advocate notification.

Inmate signs release orders and conditions of parole.

Supervision

Parolee reports to parole supervision staff within 24 hours.

Parole agent reviews conditions of parole with parolee.

Parole agent and parolee jointly develop a supervision plan. The agent uses problem solving strategies to assist the parolee.

Special agents assist parolees at risk of parole failure through interventions in the community.

Parole Violators

Convicted Parole Violator (CPV) – Commits another crime while on parole supervision and is convicted.

Under Act 122 of 2012, parole violators charged with a crime are sent to an SCI or county jail for the recommitment process.

Technical Parole Violator (TPV) - Violates a condition of parole.

There are two tracks for technical parole violators:

Contracted county jails (CCJ) and certain state correctional institutions (SCI).

If the parolee's violation is sexual in nature, involves assault or weapons, the parolee is an absconder who cannot be safely managed in a CCC or is a threat to public safety.

Per Act 122, the length of stay is up to six months for the first violation, nine months for the second violation and one year for the third and subsequent violations; eligible for automatic reparole at the end of stay.

Secure Technical Parole Violator Centers (PVC)

TPVs who do not meet one of the five criteria for SCI or CCJ will be placed in a PVC.

Three programming tracks are available that will immediately address the violation behavior. Length of stay is 60-120 days.

Per Act 122, the parolee could spend up to six months in the center; eligible for automatic reparole at the end of six months.

8 Months Prior to Minimum Date → **5 Months Prior to Minimum Date** → **4 Months Prior to Minimum Date** → **3 Months Prior to Minimum Date** → **The average time from minimum date to release for offenders interviewed prior to minimum date is 27 days**