



Issue Brief

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision

Overview

The Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision is an independent state agency that works closely with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and local supervisory authorities to protect the public and reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

Sentencing guidelines and mandatory minimum prison sentences mean that only about 8 percent of DOC's inmates come up for actual "parole" hearings, in which the three-member Board determines if and when they are eligible for release from prison. Parole-eligible inmates are those who were convicted for crimes committed before November 1, 1989; those convicted of murder or aggravated murder; and those who were sentenced as dangerous offenders by the courts.

The other 92 percent of inmates release to "post-prison supervision" when their sentences are complete; they do not "parole." Because of the tremendous growth in the inmate population, the Board and its 12-member support staff are increasingly busy with work related to offenders' successful transition back to the community and their post-prison supervision by county parole and probation officers.

Release Planning

Each of the roughly 450 inmates who leave DOC each month receives a release plan approved by the Board, and a signed "Order of Supervision Conditions" related to his or her criminogenic needs and individual situation. These conditions are important tools for parole and probation officers to ensure offenders under their supervision obey the law, complete the treatment they need, and to hold them accountable for their behavior in the community.

If an offender doesn't meet the supervision conditions, he or she is subject to community-based sanctions – up to and including revocation to jail for up to 180 days – upon the Board's approval. The Board also holds due process "Morrissey" hearings for offenders who wish to challenge their supervision conditions or sanctions; issues warrants for arrest for offenders who abscond

from supervision; and issues orders of expiration or discharge from supervision when offenders complete their responsibilities to the state.

Working with its public safety partners, the Board plays a key role in statewide efforts to reduce recidivism. The Board works with local and national experts to develop and implement evidence-based best practices, educate and train supervising authorities, and serve as a policy resource to legislators, district attorneys and advocacy groups.

Work with crime victims

Another important area is the Board's work with victims of crime. By law, the Board registers crime victims upon their request. This information is used by the Board and DOC to notify victims of upcoming parole hearings and of impending releases from prison. Beyond the statutory requirements, the Board works with crime victims to aid them in a number of ways, including explaining statutory and administrative framework for Board decisions, assisting them with preparing their statements for parole hearings, and escorting them to hearings inside prisons.

The Board also helps crime victims with safety planning when offenders are about to be released from prison, providing them with information about the offender's release plan and supervision conditions, which may include no contact orders, and connecting the crime victim with community resources and advocates to provide ongoing support and assistance.

In summary, from incarceration through post-prison supervision, the Board plays a key role in reducing recidivism and keeping Oregon's communities safe. For more information, please visit the website at www.oregon.gov/boppops.

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by
holding offenders accountable for their
actions and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



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