

# PAROLE & POST-PRISON SUPERVISION HEARINGS AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SERVICES



## What to expect as the end of incarceration draws near

For some of the most serious crimes, there is no possibility of release. For many other crimes, it is possible after the minimum sentence is served. In Oregon, all defendant's sentenced to incarceration with the Department of Corrections will also be subject to review by the State parole and Post-Prison Supervision Board (the Board).

## Parole or Post-Prison Supervision

Oregon has both of these types of actions. For sentences prior to 1989 cases may be eligible for "parole". For most cases today, the inmate may be granted release to "post-prison supervision". These terms are related to legal processes, but for all practical purposes when it comes to getting out of prison the process of hearings and release is generally the same.

By law, if a victim or victim representative makes an advance request to be kept informed and provides current contact information, the Board will attempt to notify the victim of any hearing dates.

## Types of Hearings

The Board will hold an INITIAL HEARING to determine a release date for all eligible cases.

Thereafter, parole/post-prison supervision RELEASE HEARINGS are generally held every two years up until the time of release. At these hearings the Board determines the condition which made the prisoner dangerous and whether or not that condition is now absent or in remission (meaning it can be treated and maintained).

For inmates who were sentenced as "dangerous offenders" the Board will hold a CONSIDERATION HEARING rather than a hearing on the release date. For certain aggravated murder sentences after 15 years of the time is served, the inmate may petition for a hearing to determine whether or not they are "likely to be rehabilitated" so that the sentence may be converted to "life with the possibility of parole".

## Hearings Process

The inmate has the right to be present at the hearing, and may be accompanied by a person of his/her choice. Sometimes the Board will hold the hearing by phone or video conference (and that will be noted on the advance notice). The inmate will be part of the hearing discussion with the Board.

The victims and District Attorney also both have the right to appear at the hearing to be heard. Each of them may choose to be heard in person or by phone, or may choose to submit a written statement to be shared.

These hearings are public hearings so there may be others in the room, often including the inmate's friends and family.

The Board reviews information received prior to the hearing such as information from the prisoner, information from the victim, Department of Correction's reports, medical exam reports and prisoner release plans. Generally the Board will deliberate immediately following the hearing and issue a verbal decision at that time. Sometimes they will need further deliberation and may issue a written decision after the hearing date. Copies are provided.

## Victim Services

The Board has a Victim Services Coordinator available to provide information and answer process questions. You may also receive information from the Department of Justice, Crime Victims' Services Division from their Post-Conviction Program Coordinator and Advocate. Their services include information, assistance and some limited compensation for travel to Board hearings and for counseling related to the hearings when needed.