

The Parole Board

The Parole Board is an independent decision making body. Although the recommendation of the Department of Corrections on whether or not to parole an offender is important to the Board, it can parole or not parole an individual regardless of that recommendation.

Victims have the right and are encouraged to appear before the Parole Board at hearings.

If the offender is denied parole at the first appearance before the Board, s/he is automatically eligible for a record review either every year or every two years after that or when the caseworker makes a positive recommendation for parole.

An offender who is denied parole may still be eligible to be released from jail on furlough.

An offender who is paroled will be supervised in the community by a Department of Corrections Parole Officer and must uphold certain conditions imposed by the Parole Board.

At the discretion of the Parole Board, a violation of these conditions may result in a revocation of parole. Once parole has been revoked, the offender may be returned to the correctional facility or may still be eligible to be supervised in the community on furlough.

Victim Services Program
The Vermont Department of Corrections
103 South Main Street

Parole in Vermont

Victim Services Program
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1001
(802) 241-2302

Frequently Asked Questions about the Parole Process

When does an offender become eligible for parole? Every offender becomes eligible to be seen by the Parole Board the month before reaching his/her minimum release date. If denied parole at that time, an offender is entitled to a record review either every year or every two years after that depending on if their maximum sentence is greater than 15 years. By statute and DOC policy, if an offender is successful in the community while out on furlough for either three or six months (depending on the length of the sentence), the case worker may bring the offender before the parole board, before the regular review date, with a positive parole recommendation.

If the offender is denied parole does that mean he will stay in jail until the next parole hearing? Not necessarily. An offender may be denied parole but still be eligible for release to the community on furlough, which is a decision made by the Department of Corrections.

What is the difference between parole and furlough? In Vermont being granted parole is not the only way to get out of jail. An offender, who has completed all required programming, is eligible to be considered for furlough either ninety (90) days before the minimum release date, which is called Reintegration Furlough or RF, or at the minimum release date which is called Conditional Re-entry or CR. While on either type of furlough, the offender is supervised in the community very closely by a Probation/Parole officer. The offender on furlough is required to follow a strict set of conditions and can be sent back to jail if these conditions are violated. It is possible that an offender who is scheduled to be seen by the Parole Board may actually have been released from jail on furlough or is getting ready to be released on furlough before the parole hearing. Offenders who are paroled are still supervised by the Department of Corrections. However, they report less frequently to their Parole Officer and the conditions of supervision may be less strict. Offenders on parole may have more freedom to travel and may be supervised in another State through the Interstate Compact.

Is it possible to speak to the parole board confidentially? Victims have the right to request to see the Parole Board without the offender being present and can arrange to do so by calling the Victim Services Program (802 241-2302). The details of statements given by victims will be kept confidential. The offender will only be told that an individual appeared and either did or did not recommend parole. No identifying information will be shared with the offender.

If I decide to appear in front of the Parole Board, what should I tell them and how do I arrange to be seen? The Parole Board is interested in knowing about the impact the crime had on the victim and other affected parties. A statement can be made in person, either in front of the offender or not, or can be written and read to the Board by a Victim Services Staff member. Statements do not have to be long. If you are interested in speaking to the Parole Board or submitting a statement to be read to the offender on your behalf at the hearing, contact the Victim Services Program at 802 241-2302. You may also mail a letter directly to the Parole Board which, at your direction can be read to the offender or can be marked "confidential" and placed in the offender's file.

Parole and Victims' Rights

- Victims have the right to be notified 30 days before the parole hearing.
- Victims have the right to participate in the hearing and to give input into the Parole Board's decision.
- Victims have the right to confidentiality and to see the Parole without the offender present.
- Victims have the right to be notified about the outcome of any parole hearing.
-

To register for notification through the
VAN Service call

24 hour Toll-Free

1-866-976-VANS (1-866-976-8267)

Or log on to WWW.vinlink.com



Victim Services Program
The Vermont Department of Corrections
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1001
(802) 241-2302

Vermont Parole Board
103 South Main Street—Ladd Hall
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1002
(802) 241-2294