



An Bord Parúil
The Parole Board

THE PAROLE PROCESS

**Information Leaflet
for Parole Applicants
2023**



1. Applying for Parole

You can apply for parole if you are a person serving a life sentence who has served 10½ years or more.

By law, a person must have served at least 12 years of their life sentence before the Board can grant parole.

This leaflet outlines;

- what parole is,
- the parole process,
- who can apply.

2. What is Parole?

Parole involves release from prison under certain conditions.

If you are granted parole, you must follow all the conditions of your parole order.

If you are released on parole, you are still serving a life sentence but in the community.

You may be returned to prison if you re-offend or break any of the conditions of your parole order.

3. What is the Parole Board?

The Parole Board works independently from the Minister for Justice and seeks to protect the community, be fair to parole applicants, and listen to victims.

The Parole Board will decide if you can be released into the community on parole. When deciding on your application, some of the things the Board will consider are:

- the risk to the public,
- your rehabilitation,
- how much work you have done to prepare for returning to society, and
- if it is appropriate that you are released.

4. Who can apply for parole?



You can apply for parole when you have served 10½ years of your life sentence and have been invited to do so by the Parole Board. However, parole will not be granted to anyone who has served less than 12 years of a life sentence.



You can have free legal representation during the parole process from the Parole Board Legal Aid Scheme.



Victims can make submissions to the Parole Board and can have legal representation during the submission process.



5. How does the parole process work?

You must be eligible

The Irish Prison Service sends a list of those who are eligible to apply for parole to the Parole Board. If you are on that list, the Parole Board will write to you and invite you to apply for parole.

You cannot apply for parole if you are currently a patient in a designated centre such as the Central Mental Hospital. You may be referred to the Parole Board after you return to prison.

The Parole Board can request reports on you

The Parole Board may request reports about you from a number of sources including:

- The prison Governor
- The prison Psychology Service
- The Probation Service
- The Courts Service
- An Garda Síochána
- The Prison Review Committee

All these reports will be shared with you and your legal representative, other than in exceptional circumstances. We will discuss this information with you when you meet with members of the Parole Board and before we make any decisions.

6. How do the parole rules apply to me?

Below are three examples. One may apply to you as a person serving a life sentence.

Example A: I have served 12 or more years of my sentence

The Irish Prison Service should notify the Parole Board that you are eligible to apply for parole. The Parole Board will send you a letter informing you that you may make an application for parole.

If you are not granted parole, the Parole Board will tell you when you can apply again. You might have to go through the parole process several times and show meaningful progress before you will be granted parole.

Example B: I have served less than 12 years and have not been reviewed for parole before

You will be eligible to apply for parole when:

- you have completed 10½ years of your life sentence, and,
- the Parole Board invites you to apply.

Parole will not be granted to anyone who has served less than 12 years of a life sentence.

Example C: I Have served less than 12 years and have been reviewed for parole before

You will be eligible to apply for parole when:

- you have completed 10½ years of your life sentence, and,
- the Parole Board invites you to apply.

Parole will not be granted to anyone who has served less than 12 years of a life sentence.

7. Where can I get more information?

You can find more information on the parole process on the Parole Board 's website at **www.gov.ie/paroleboard**

You can also write to The Parole Board, Suite 401, The Capel Building, Marys Abbey, Dublin 7, D07 N4C6.

Your prison Governor will answer any questions you have about your sentence management, including temporary release, Section 39s or transferring to another prison. You can also check with your Governor to ensure that the Irish Prison Service has notified the Parole Board about you if you have served the required period of time outlined above.

Information purposes only - not legal advice

This document is provided as an information guide only.

The contents are neither legal advice nor an interpretation of Irish law on parole.

We accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

We will review this document from time to time and it may be updated.



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