



Steps toward parole

Juvenile courts don't give youth specific "sentences" or release dates. There is a maximum time depending on your offense. The longest you could stay in any situation is until your 25th birthday (unless you were convicted as an adult).

Your parole date depends on:

- Your efforts to show positive skills and behavior. You need to demonstrate that you're holding yourself accountable and that you won't commit new crimes.
- How serious your crime was. If you committed a very serious crime, then you'll be with OYA longer than for a less-serious crime.
- Other factors.

How are parole decisions made?

STEP 1: Put in the work to show that you're ready.

What you do matters. You'll meet with staff to set goals and make a plan to improve your skills, do treatment, and get ready to return to the community. This step can take several months or up to several years, depending on your behavior, treatment requirements, and your offense.

STEP 2: Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

When your multi-disciplinary team (MDT) thinks you are ready for parole, they recommend it to the Parole Review Committee. They may recommend you go to a residential program or foster home to continue working on your treatment and skill-building.

STEP 3: Parole Review Committee (PRC)

The Parole Review Committee includes the superintendent of your facility and the parole and probation supervisor from the county where you were adjudicated. They look at the MDT recommendations and make a decision.

STEP 4: Agency Case Review (ACR)

The ACR reviews parole recommendations for youth who have committed very serious person-to-person crimes. This group makes a final decision.

Parole Considerations

#1

Effort, participation, and progress on your treatment, educational, vocational, and behavioral goals.

Examples

- Attending and participating in all your treatment groups.
- Using the skills you learned in group.
- Going to school and following the rules.
- Consistently making a good effort to show positive behaviors.
- Making progress towards your case plan goals.
- Showing that you can deal with conflict without violence.
- Helping others feel emotionally and physically safe through your words and behaviors.

#2

Restitution to the victim.

Examples

- **If a judge ordered you to pay restitution to the victim:** You are making restitution payments or have a plan to make them in the future.
- **If a judge did not order you to pay restitution to the victim:** You don't need to worry about #2.

#3

Safe behavior towards yourself and others.

Examples

- You have positive ways to handle things that are difficult or trigger you.
- If you are thinking about hurting yourself, you ask staff for help to stay safe.
- You consistently show that you can deal with conflict without violence.
- You do not hurt other youth or staff on purpose.
- You are not getting Youth Incident Reports (YIRs).

#4

The impact of your release on the victim and the community.

Examples

- You complete your treatment, which shows people you're serious about not committing new crimes.
 - You understand and acknowledge the impact your behavior had on the victim and the community.
 - You can identify how you have harmed others.
 - You take ownership of your behaviors and don't blame others.
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#5

A plan for what comes next.

What does this mean?

- There is a safe and positive place in the community where you can live.
 - There are programs, resources, and people that will help you meet your goals, located in the community you plan to live in. Examples: treatment, school, or vocational programs.
 - Residential programs are more likely to take in youth who are showing positive behaviors and progress in treatment.
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#6

Other factors or circumstances based on your specific situation.

What does this mean?

Examples might include:

- your mental health needs
- your next placement and the level of supervision needed
- your previous experiences in the community
- whether the supports and services you need are available
- the seriousness of your crime