



Definitions

Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC)

The DOC is the state agency that runs the prisons in Illinois. It is responsible for keeping people safe, caring for people in prison, and helping them prepare to return to the community. The DOC also has a Victim Services Unit. This unit helps victims of crime by giving them information about an incarcerated person's status, release dates, and other important updates. Victims can sign up to receive notices. The unit also answers questions and helps victims understand the process.

Prisoner Review Board (PRB)

The PRB is a group of people in Illinois who make decisions about parole, Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR), clemency requests, and other hearings. The PRB also decides the rules a person must follow when they leave prison. The Board performs other duties required by Illinois law, including duties listed in **730 ILCS 5, Article 3**.

The PRB also has a Victim & Witness Services Unit. This unit helps registered victims stay informed. It sends notices about hearings, updates about release status, and reminders about their rights. Victims may also give a victim impact statement, explaining how the crime affected them.

Clemency Hearings

Clemency Hearings are meetings where the PRB reviews requests for pardons or sentence changes. The Board then makes an official recommendation to the Governor, who makes the final decision. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-2)**

Conditions of Release

Conditions of Release are the rules a person must follow when on parole or MSR. They may include no-contact orders, curfews, job requirements, school attendance requirements, or drug testing. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-7)**

Custody

Custody means the person is being held by the state in jail or prison.

Early Discharge Reviews

Early Discharge Reviews are for people on MSR who are asking to end their supervision before their scheduled end date. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-8)**

Good Time / Earned Time

Good Time or Earned Time is time taken off a person's prison sentence for good behavior or completing programs. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3)**

Indeterminate Parole Hearings (“En Banc” Hearings)

These hearings are for people who received older sentences, usually before 1978, that do not have a fixed number of years (for example: 15 years to life). The PRB decides when the person may be released by looking at a variety of factors, including behavior, rehabilitation, and safety. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-7)**

Joe Coleman Act / Medical Release Hearings

These hearings allow people in prison who have a terminal illness or are medically unable to care for themselves to request early release. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-14)**

Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR)

MSR, defined in **730 ILCS 5/3-3-7**, is the time a person must spend under supervision after leaving prison. The person must follow the rules set by the PRB and a DOC Parole Agent. Rules may include getting a job, going to school, doing community service, or not using firearms. Breaking these rules may result in a Parole Violation or Parole Hold, and the person may be taken into custody.

Parole

Parole is when a person leaves prison early but must follow rules and check in with a DOC Parole Agent. If the person follows the rules, they may stay in the community. If not, they may have to return to prison. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-7)**

Parole Agent

A Parole Agent is a DOC officer who supervises people on parole or MSR. They help the person follow the rules and stay on track.

Parole Hold

A Parole Hold means the person is temporarily held in custody until the PRB decides what to do about a possible violation. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-9)**

Parole Violation

A Parole Violation happens when a person breaks one of the rules of their parole or MSR. It may lead to a hearing or a return to custody. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-9)**

Reentry

Reentry is the process of helping people adjust to life in the community after leaving prison. It may include job training, counseling, and help with housing.

Revocation

Revocation means the PRB decides a person must return to prison because they did not follow parole or MSR rules. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-9)**

Revocation Hearings

Revocation Hearings are held when someone on parole or MSR is accused of breaking a rule of their release. The PRB reviews the case and decides what happens. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-3-9)**



Ticket (Disciplinary Ticket)

A “ticket” in the Department of Corrections is a written report that says a person in prison broke a rule. When an officer believes a rule was broken, they write a disciplinary ticket explaining what happened. The person who receives the ticket may have a hearing in which officials decide whether the rule was broken and what the consequences should be. Consequences can include losing privileges, losing good time, or being placed in segregation.

In Illinois, disciplinary rules and procedures for tickets are supported by state law and DOC regulations under **730 ILCS 5/3-8-7**.

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

VINE is a free service that helps victims of crime get information about people who are in jail or prison. In Illinois, the program is run through the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. VINE lets victims sign up for alerts so they can be told if the person in custody is released, transferred, or has a change in status. Victims can get updates by phone, text, or email, and check information at any time.

VINE is supported by the **Illinois Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act, found in 725 ILCS 120**, which gives victims the right to be informed about important changes in an offender’s custody status.

Violation Report

A Violation Report is written by a Parole Agent. It explains which rule the person on parole or MSR is accused of breaking.

Victim Statement / Victim Impact Statement

A Victim Impact Statement is a written or spoken statement that explains how the crime affected the victim. The PRB reviews these statements during certain hearings. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-8-4)**

Youthful Parole Hearings

Youthful Parole Hearings are conducted for people who committed their crimes and were sentenced before turning 21. **(Authority: 730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-115)**