



# Issue Brief - 2010

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## The Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision

### Overview

The Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision is an independent state agency that works closely with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and local supervisory authorities to protect the public and reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

Sentencing guidelines and mandatory minimum prison sentences mean that only about 10 percent of DOC's inmates come up for actual "parole" hearings, in which the three-member Board determines if and when they are eligible for release from prison. Parole-eligible inmates are those who were convicted for crimes committed before November 1, 1989, for murder or aggravated murder, or who were sentenced as dangerous offenders by the courts.

The other 90 percent of inmates leave prison because their sentence is complete and they go out on "post-prison supervision," not on parole. Because of the tremendous growth in the inmate population, the Board and its 11-member support staff are increasingly busy with work related to offenders' successful transition back to the community and their post-prison supervision by county parole and probation officers.

### Release Planning

Each of the roughly 450 inmates each month who leaves DOC receives a release plan approved by the Board, and a signed "Order of Supervision Conditions" related to his or her criminogenic needs and individual situation. These conditions are important tools for parole and probation officers to ensure offenders under their supervision obey the law, complete the treatment they need, and to hold them accountable for their behavior in the community.

If an offender doesn't meet the supervision conditions, he or she is subject to community-based sanctions – up to and including revocation to jail for up to 180 days – upon the Board's approval. The Board also holds due-process "Morrissey" hearings for offenders who wish to

challenge their supervision conditions or sanctions, issues warrants for arrest for offenders who abscond from supervision and issues orders of discharge from supervision when offenders complete their responsibilities to the state.

Working with its public safety partners, the Board plays a key role in statewide efforts to reduce recidivism. The Board works with local and national experts to develop and implement evidence-based best practices, educate and train supervising authorities, and serve as a policy resource to legislators, district attorneys and advocacy groups.

### Work with crime victims

Another important area is the Board's work with victims of crime. By law, the Board registers crime victims upon their request. This information is used by the Board and ODOC to notify them of upcoming parole hearings and of impending releases from prison. Beyond the statutory requirements, the Board works with crime victims to aid them in a number of ways, including assisting them with preparing their statements for parole hearings and escorting them to hearings inside prisons.

The Board also helps crime victims with safety planning when their offenders are about to be released from prison, providing them with information about the offender's release plan, setting up no-contact orders, and connecting the crime victim with community resources and advocates to provide ongoing support and assistance.

In summary, from incarceration through post-prison supervision, the Board plays a key role in reducing recidivism and keeping Oregon's communities safe. For more information, please visit the website at [www.oregon.gov/boppops](http://www.oregon.gov/boppops).

**The mission of the  
Oregon Department of Corrections  
is to promote public safety by  
holding offenders accountable for their  
actions and reducing the risk of future  
criminal behavior.**



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