

Intensive Supervised Release (ISR)

Introduction

The Intensive Supervision Program requires that high-risk offenders be identified while in prison, and that those offenders be placed on Intensive Supervised Release (ISR) upon release from prison. Offenders remain on ISR until they successfully complete the program or until they reach expiration of their sentence.

ISR elements include house arrest, electronic monitoring (which may include GPS), random drug/alcohol testing, unannounced residential and work visits by the supervising agent and mandatory 40 hours per week of constructive activity, which includes work, education, training and treatment. Offenders are also required to comply with any special conditions of their release, which may include sex offender treatment, Alcoholics Anonymous, and/or anger management classes.

Purpose

ISR protects the public by managing and intensely supervising the offender in the community. Programming aims to positively change the offender's behavior, facilitate constructive activity, and require payment of restitution to victims of the offender's crime.

Program Components

Limited caseload size is key to ISR. This allows agent flexibility to provide close supervision as well as the opportunity to make random residential contacts during nontraditional work hours, evenings, and weekends.

ISR caseloads do not exceed 30 offenders per two agents, according to law. Since ISR is continuous – 24 hours per day, 365 days a year most offenders are supervised by a team of four to five agents in order to provide seamless delivery of offender supervision.

ISR consists of six phases. Only Level 3 predatory offenders are required to complete phases V and VI. Level 3 offenders remain on ISR supervision until the end of their sentence.

All phases maintain the random and unannounced nature of agent contacts as well as drug/alcohol testing. During all phases, offenders must continue to be involved in constructive activity for a minimum of 40 hours per week.

ISR Program Facts

- Established in 1990 (M.S. §244.12-244.15) and applies statewide.
- About 1,200 offenders are served quarterly on ISR across Minnesota.
- ISR costs about \$18 per day, per offender.
- GPS monitoring costs an additional \$6.90 - \$7.20 per day, per offender.
- Traditional probation and supervised release costs about \$4 per day, per offender.
- The DOC FY17 ISR budget was \$4.195 million.
- \$3.869 million was allocated in FY17 for grants to local entities to provide ISR.

Program Components (continued)

Phase I is very restrictive and includes a minimum of four face-to-face contacts weekly. Phase I also includes house arrest and electronic monitoring, in addition to all other requirements. All Level 3 predatory offenders are placed on GPS monitoring for a minimum of 60 days during phase I.

As offenders move through phases II and III, house arrest and face-to-face contact requirements are modified as permitted by law to reflect offender progress. Phase II requires a minimum of two face-to-face contacts per week, followed by one weekly contact for phase III.

Phase IV, the final ISR phase for most offenders, has less agent contact and a curfew. Two face-to-face contacts are required monthly.

Level 3 offenders remain on phase V for up to 3 years. Two face-to-face contacts are required monthly. The offender is required to submit to polygraph testing and has a curfew set by the agent.

Phase VI lasts until the end of a Level 3 offender's sentence. A monthly face-to-face contact with an agent is required as are polygraph tests and a curfew.

Operation

Currently, ISR is provided in every county in the State of Minnesota. The DOC administers grant funds to the Community Corrections Act jurisdictions of Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted (DFO); Hennepin; Ramsey; St. Louis, Carlton, Cook, Lake, and Koochiching (ARC); Anoka; and Dakota Counties to operate local ISR programs under state guidelines. These jurisdictions have about 45 ISR agents providing services, 40 of which are supported by state funds. Approximately 30 DOC agents are responsible for ISR in the remaining counties of the state.

Evaluation

An evaluation component has been developed to gather and analyze information concerning the ISR program. That evaluation is continuous and revised quarterly. Historically, the percentage of offenders who fail ISR by committing a new felony has consistently remained below one percent.

Rule Violations

ISR has strict rules, unannounced agent visits, a zero tolerance for drug/alcohol use, and intense supervision. Offenders face return to prison for violation of ISR program rules. ISR revocations are in accordance with DOC Guidelines for Revocation of Parole/Supervised Release and Promulgated Rules, administered by the DOC Hearings & Release Unit.