

Intensive Supervised Release (ISR)

Introduction

The Intensive Supervision Program requires that very high-risk persons under supervision for violence or repeat sexual offending are placed on Intensive Supervised Release (ISR) upon release from prison. People remain on ISR until they reduce at-risk behavior or reach expiration of their sentence.

ISR elements include intensive case planning that address the causes of recidivism, referrals to treatment, 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. People are also required to comply with any special conditions of their release, which may include sex offender treatment, support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, and/or domestic violence programming.

Purpose

ISR protects the public by managing and intensely supervising persons in the community while providing effective interventions and support to reduce recidivism. Programming and agent's interventions aim to positively change a person's behavior, and reduce probabilities for continued recidivism by targeting the pathways to recidivism.

Limited caseload size is key to ISR. This allows agent flexibility to provide close supervision and intensive case management, while making random residential contacts during nontraditional work hours, evenings, and weekends.

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

ISR consists of four phases. Only Level 3 Predatory Offender Registration (POR) persons are required to complete phase IV. Level POR persons remain on ISR supervision until the end of their sentence.

All phases maintain random and unannounced contacts as well as drug/alcohol testing. During all phases, people 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 persons are served quarterly on ISR across Minnesota.
- ISR costs about \$20 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 FY20 ISR budget was \$4.578 million.
- \$4.030 million was allocated in FY20 for grants to local entities to provide ISR.

Program Components

Phase I is very restrictive and includes a minimum of three face-to-face contacts weekly. Phase I also includes intensive case management, treatment, house arrest and electronic monitoring, in addition to all other requirements. All Level 3 POR persons are placed on GPS monitoring for a minimum of 60 days during phase I. If persons are not making satisfactory progress on addressing their pathways to recidivism, they may remain on phase I.

As people move through phase II, house arrest and face-to-face contact requirements are modified to reflect their progress. Phase II requires a minimum of two face-to-face contacts per week. Intensive case management is still provided to address the cause of recidivism including treatment referrals.

Phase III, the final ISR phase for most people, has less agent contact, and a curfew. One face-to-face contact is required weekly. Intensive case management is still provided to address the cause of recidivism including treatment referrals.

Phases I - III are each typically four months in duration, depending on a person's compliance with conditions of release and compliance with case plan goals.

Level 3 predatory persons remain on phase IV with face-to-face contacts required at least monthly. The offender is required to submit to polygraph testing and has a curfew set by the agent.

Phase IV lasts until the end of a Level 3 persons sentence has expired.

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 as to the effectiveness of ISR for reducing recidivism. Historically, the percentage of offenders who fail ISR by committing a new felony has consistently remained below one percent.