

Supervised Release Board

Background

Minnesota statute established the Supervised Release Board to review eligible cases and make supervised release/parole release determinations and final discharge decisions for:

- inmates serving life sentences with the possibility of parole or supervised release under sections 243.05, subdivision 1, and 244.05, subdivision 5;
- inmates serving indeterminate sentences for crimes committed on or before April 30, 1980; and
- inmates eligible for early supervised release under section 244.05, subdivision 4a.

Review Process

Effective July 1, 2024, the Supervised Release Board, referred to as “the Board,” was [established in accordance with Minnesota law](#). The Board consists of:

- four individuals appointed by the governor who meet at least one of the following qualifications:
 - a degree from an accredited law school or a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree in criminology, corrections, social work, or a related social science;
 - five years of experience in corrections, a criminal justice or community corrections field, rehabilitation programming, behavioral health, or criminal law; or
 - demonstrated knowledge of victim issues and correctional processes;
- two individuals appointed by the governor with an academic degree in neurology, psychology, or a comparable field and who have expertise in the neurological development of juveniles; and
- the commissioner of corrections, who serves as chair.
- The majority leader of the senate, minority leader of the senate, speaker of the house, and minority leader of the house shall each recommend two candidates for appointment to the positions with the qualifications detailed above.

The Board is given the authority to grant or deny supervised release or parole to:

- Individuals who were juveniles certified adults and received a court-imposed sentence of 15 years or longer,
- Individuals serving an indeterminate or life-sentence after they have served their minimum term of imprisonment, also known as a Parole Eligibility Date (PED), and
- individuals with certain criminal sexual conduct offenses after they have served their minimum term of imprisonment, also known as a Parole Eligibility Date (PED).

The Board conducts an initial review of the individual’s potential readiness for parole three years before the individual reaches their minimum term of imprisonment/PED, and then at intervals determined by the Board.

The Executive Officer of Hearings and Release is responsible for maintaining the review schedule, including:

- Coordination with the DOC’s Victim Services & Restorative Justice Unit who works to locate and

provide supportive services to the victim or victim's surviving family members in loss of life cases so they can provide input to the Board,

- Outreach to the probation/parole authority in the county of sentencing to request preparation of a community investigation report capturing the opinions and attitudes of law enforcement, the prosecutor, and the sentencing judge regarding the individual at the time of the crime and at the time they are being reviewed by the Board, and

Collaboration with the assigned correctional facility case worker and the DOC's Behavioral Health Unit who prepare comprehensive board review reports detailing a historical review of the parole candidate's institutional record of discipline, if any; assessed risk factors and needs; completed programs and services; preliminary release plans, and any other information relevant to the review process.

The Board considers direct input and information collected from facility staff, the community where the incarcerated individual was sentenced, the victim or surviving family members of the victim in loss of life cases, and the individual being considered for parole and a support person of their choosing. The Board bases its decision to grant or deny parole on a range of factors, including but not limited to, all information compiled by the DOC, the community investigation report, victim input, programming completed and/or treatment progress, behavior while incarcerated, psychological and other diagnostic evaluations, criminal history, and risk to the public. During the review hearing, the Board may assign a projected release date or continue the case with directives to be completed before the next review. The Board may also recommend to the Commissioner of Corrections, and Board chairperson, implementation of a stepdown process, which may include future placement in a minimum custody facility or work release setting. Placement in minimum custody or work release is NOT a grant of parole as the individual remains on a custody status versus a supervision status.

Board decisions are made by a majority vote of the members present. In instances where a tie vote occurs, supervised release or parole is granted only if the Commissioner votes in favor of granting supervised release or parole.

Each person under review is evaluated individually, and all ensuing recommendations are unique to that individual and their case.

Additional information, including the SRB hearing schedule and recordings of past hearings, can be obtained at <https://mn.gov/doc/about/supervised-release-board/> or by contacting:

Executive Officer of Hearings and Release at paroleinputpublic.hru.doc@state.mn.us.

The Victim Services and Restorative Justice Unit can be reached at victimassistance.doc@state.mn.us or 651-361-7250.