

# PAROLE UNDERSTANDING

- Parole is the early release of an inmate from the Department of Corrections to the supervision of the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. The inmate will continue to serve his sentence, under the Department's supervision, until the remainder of the sentence is satisfied.
- **PAROLE ELIGIBILITY**
  - An inmate who is serving a sentence for parole-eligible **violent crimes**, is eligible for parole consideration after the completion of 1/3 of the total sentence.
  - An inmate who is serving a sentence for parole-eligible **non-violent crimes**, is eligible for parole consideration after the completion of 1/4 of the total sentence.
  - The maximum parole eligibility, excluding murder and special parole rules, is Ten (10) Years.
- **PAROLE ELIGIBILITY DATE** – The inmate has served enough time to be considered for parole.
- **PAROLE HEARING DATE** – The date the inmate will appear before the Board (Published approximately 30 days prior to the hearing date).
- **ABOUT THE SC BOARD OF PAROLES AND PARDONS**
  - The Board is comprised of Seven (7) Members, one from each congressional district.
  - Members serve Six (6)-year staggered terms.
  - All members are appointed by the Governor, with approval by the Senate.
  - Members are subject to removal by the Governor.
- **BOARD POWERS**
  - Granting or denying paroles and pardons (24-21-30 (B))
  - Revoking, modifying, or rehearing paroles (24-21-680)
  - Making recommendations on petitions for reprieves and commutations referred by the Governor (24-21-910)
  - Considering requests for medical parole (24-21-715)
  - Preserving order at its meetings (24-21-30)
- **BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTY**
  - It is the duty of the board to consider cases for
    - parole,
    - pardon,
    - and any other form of clemency provided for under law.
  - The board must carefully consider the record of the prisoner before, during, and after imprisonment, and
  - No such prisoner may be paroled until it appears to the satisfaction of the board:
    - that the prisoner has shown a disposition to reform;
    - that in the future he will probably obey the law and lead a correct life;
    - that by his conduct he has merited a lessening of the rigors of his imprisonment;
    - that the interest of society will not be impaired thereby;
    - and that suitable employment has been secured for him.
- **HEARINGS**
  - Full Board may grant parole for
    - Violent Offenders with a majority vote
      - 2/3 Majority if crime on before 05/23/1977 or after 06/03/1986
      - Simple Majority if crime 05/24/1977 through 06/02/1986
    - Non-Violent Offenders with simple majority vote
  - 3-member Panels may grant parole for
    - Non-Violent Offenders with Unanimous Vote
    - Cases without Unanimous Vote are referred to the Full Board for decision.
- **CONDITIONAL PAROLE**
  - When the Board decides an inmate is a good candidate for parole, Once the pre-release conditions are met, the inmate is released to supervision.
  - Pre-release Conditions include
    - Employment
    - Residence
    - Programming
    - Detainers
- **TERM OF PAROLE** – The inmate released to parole will serve the remainder of his/her sentence, minus credits applied by the SC Department of Corrections.
- **PAROLE REJECTION** - When the Board decides an inmate is not a good candidate for parole, the inmate will be considered again
  - Every Two Years for Inmates serving for Violent Offenses.
  - Every Year for certain Inmates serving for Violent Offenses 05/24/1977 - 06/02/1986.
  - Every Year for Inmates for serving Non-Violent Offenses