Prisoners' Legal Service

Prison News

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PEOPLE IN PRISON IN QLD
PRISONERS LEGAL SERVICE INC
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Parole Updates

Parole Application Timeframes

There are currently 2 different timeframes that apply to parole applications. Which applies to you will depend on when your application was received by the Parole Board.

1. ***Applications received after 8 June 2022 –*** Applications received after this date will need to be decided by the Board within 4 months (120 days).

   If the Board requires additional time, to obtain further information, they can then defer the matter for an additional 30 days, taking the total timeframe to 5 months (150 days).

2. ***Applications received on or before 8 June 2022 –*** Applications received on or before this date will need to be decided by the Board with 6 months (180 days).

   If the Board requires additional time, to obtain further information, they can then defer the matter for an additional 30 days, taking the total timeframe to 7 months (210 days).

Court Ordered Immediate Parole Eligibility (COIPE) Project

The COIPE Project started on 2 September 2019 and aimed to develop an efficient way to process the parole applications of prisoners who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment with an immediate parole eligibility date. That is, prisoners who become eligible for parole on the same day as sentencing.

Given the ongoing parole delays in 2021, the Parole Board confirmed the Project would be suspended from 16 September 2021 until at least July 2022.

PLS recently contacted the Parole Board to confirm whether COIPE will be recommencing. The Board advised that while they intend to start the Project again there is no timeframe for when this will occur.

This broadsheet is intended to provide legal information only and is no substitute for legal advice. If you wish to take any action arising from matters raised in this publication you should consult a lawyer immediately.

Culturally Engaged Release for Indigenous Parolees (CERIP)

The CERIP pilot program has been designed by the Parole Board to better engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners who are returning to remote communities and communities that have a Community Justice Groups.

Prisoners identified to go through CERIP will be allocated to a video conference with the Board as part of the parole process. Where possible the Board will arrange for a member of the relevant Community Justice Group to attend this video link to provide support to the prisoner and / or to connect with them so they can understand the support that the Community Justice Group can provide in the community.

CERIP does not have a lower threshold for release. Rather it requires that the Board engage in a culturally appropriate decision-making process. The aim is to better understand your particular circumstances and enables a parole order to be made to best suit your rehabilitation.

CERIP video link

Who will be there?

The Board members considering your matter.

Where possible a representative of the relevant Community Justice Group or relevant elder will also attend.

Matters you will be asked to discuss

General

- Issues or troubles you had when you were last in the community.
- Who can you talk to if you are struggling on parole? Consider personal and professional supports that you have in place.
- Are you willing to undertake programs suggested by your parole officer?
- What are your triggers and high-risk situations?
- Any incidents or breaches that have occurred while you have been in custody
- What do you want to do once released? Goals and plans (hobbies and/ or work).

Drugs and Alcohol (if applicable)

- What will you do if you are offered drugs or alcohol?
- Have you done rehabilitation programs? If so, talk about what you have learnt.
- What will you do if you are around people who are using drugs or alcohol?

Domestic Violence (if applicable)

- The conditions of your domestic violence order/s.
- Do you need to stay away from the other person, what type of relationship are you wanting to have with them?
- What caused the domestic violence? What were the triggers and how can you manage high-risk situations if they occur?
- If you and the other person share children, how will you manage this?

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