



EARLY PAROLE CONSIDERATION
103 DOC 418

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418.01 Purpose

The purpose of 103 DOC 418 is to establish policy and procedure for early parole considerations.

418.02 Cancellation

103 DOC 418 cancels all previous Department policy statements, bulletins, directives, orders, notices, rules, and regulations regarding early parole consideration which are inconsistent with this policy.

418.03 Severability Clause

If any part of 103 DOC 418 is for any reason held to be in excess of the authority of the Commissioner, such decision shall not affect any other part of this policy.

418.04 Eligibility

- A. Incarcerated individuals serving a state prison sentence are eligible to apply for a special parole consideration after having served one-third (1/3) of the minimum sentence. Incarcerated individuals serving two (2) or more state prison sentences to be served consecutively are eligible to apply for a special parole consideration after having served one-third (1/3) of the aggregate of the minimum terms of such sentences.

1. Mandatory Sentences: Incarcerated individuals serving a mandatory sentence shall be required to serve the mandatory portion of the sentence prior to being considered for special parole consideration.
2. Crimes on Parole: Incarcerated individuals serving a sentence for crime(s) committed while on Massachusetts parole are not eligible for special parole consideration.
3. Truth in Sentencing: Incarcerated individuals convicted under “Truth in Sentencing” Laws for crimes committed on or after 7/1/94 are not eligible for special parole consideration.

418.05 Application Timeframes

Incarcerated individuals serving state prison sentences may apply for special parole consideration ninety (90) days prior to their one-third (1/3) date. Incarcerated individuals serving reformatory sentences (MCI-Framingham) may apply for early parole consideration at any time during their sentence. However, in compliance with [M.G.L. c. 127 § 142](#) when an incarcerated female is due to give birth during the term of their imprisonment, they may apply at any time with the recommendation of that institution’s physician.

418.06 Application Process

A. Application

Eligible incarcerated individuals shall apply for early parole consideration through their institution’s Director of Classification. The Director of Classification shall schedule the incarcerated individual for a reclassification board hearing. Eligible incarcerated individuals housed in out-of-state, or county facilities shall apply through the Sheriff, Warden, Master, or Designee of their current facility. The Sheriff, Warden, Master, or Designee shall forward their recommendations to the Director of the Classification Division.

B. Suitability Review

The suitability of an incarcerated individual for favorable consideration shall be in accordance with Parole Board Regulations [120 CMR 200.10](#) and shall include, but not be limited to, the following extraordinary and compelling circumstances:

1. Serious medical or physical condition;
2. Exceptional achievement in a rehabilitative program;
3. Acceptance into a community rehabilitative program;
4. Any other reason that the Board determines is sufficiently compelling to warrant early consideration for parole release.

- C. Classification Board Hearing
The Classification Board Hearing shall be conducted in accordance with [103 CMR 420, Classification](#).
- D. Review
If approved by the Commissioner or designee, the case shall be forwarded to the Parole Board for review.

418.07 Parole Board Action

- A. Early parole consideration requests, when favorably recommended by a majority of the full board, shall result only in a decision to conduct a hearing before a panel of the board.
- B. Following the hearing, the full board shall consider whether to grant early consideration.
1. If a majority of the full board agrees to grant early consideration, the full board shall then consider the matter of the time and circumstances of release.
 2. Where such approval is not given, early consideration shall not be allowed at that time, and the original parole eligibility date shall remain in effect.

418.08 Denials/Timeframes For Re-Application

Incarcerated individuals who are denied early consideration may reapply ninety (90) days after the date of denial.

418.09 Responsible Staff

Reviewing Authority: Deputy Commissioner, Clinical Services and Reentry

Responsible Staff:

- Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Reentry
- Superintendents

418.10 Access to Policy

Department's Central Policy File
Each Institution's Policy File
Institution Library

418.11 Information Sources

Legal Authority:

[M.G.L. c. 124, § 1 \(q\)](#)
[M.G.L. c.127, § 133 \(b\), 142; St. 1993 c. 432](#)
[120 CMR 200.10](#)

Other Related Policies: [103 CMR 420, Classification](#)

Applicability: Staff and Incarcerated Individuals eligible for parole

Attachments: None