



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Maryland Parole Commission

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Governor Wes Moore's Parole Consideration Process for Inmates Serving Life Sentences

Parole decisions and recommendations made by the Maryland Parole Commission

STATE OF MARYLAND

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS
SECRETARY

DAVID BLUMBERG
CHAIRMAN

1. Parole decision or recommendations and relevant documents from the parole file from the Maryland Parole Commission will be transmitted to the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel ("OLC").
2. Unless the unique circumstances of the case render an investigation unnecessary, the OLC will request the Division of Parole and Probation to conduct a post-sentence investigation. Documents in the file may be shared with the investigator, as appropriate.
3. Investigators may be tasked, among other things, with:
 - a. learning details about the inmate's proposed home plan (housing, employment, financial support, transportation, etc.);
 - b. identifying and locating any victims or their family members to ascertain their opinions about a possible parole;
 - c. verifying any recommendations received either in support or opposition of parole; and
 - d. locating any documents or information typically contained in a parole file but omitted in the instant case.
4. The report may contain other facts and information about the case that the investigator discovers and believes may be useful to the Governor.
5. Unless the unique circumstances of the case render it unnecessary, the State's Attorney's Office that prosecuted the underlying case will typically be contacted and given the opportunity to provide input.
6. The OLC will in the usual case schedule an interview with the inmate at the prison, unless security reasons dictate otherwise or unless an interview would not be productive.
 - a. An interview will not normally be conducted for a medical parole.
 - b. The inmate will be given the opportunity to speak on his or her own behalf and provide information pertinent to the legal factors considered in the parole decision.
 - c. The attorney who has conducted the interview will prepare a memorandum for the file, memorializing the discussion and noting mental impressions and thoughts about the interview.
7. The following individuals or entities may call, write to, or meet with the OLC to advocate for or against parole: an inmate who has received a parole decision or recommendation; the inmate's family, friends, and advocates; victims and their relatives; attorneys, lobbyists, organizations, or law clinics representing any of the foregoing; and other interested parties. Calls and meetings are memorialized in memoranda to the file, and any documentation presented is added to the file as well.

A juvenile lifer may, on request, examine any document that is not already in the Parole Commission's records, and that the Governor will use in determining whether the juvenile lifer is suitable for parole, subject to the exceptions listed in Corr. Servs. § 7-303(b)(1)(ii) and (b)(2).

8. After the investigation and interview are complete, the OLC will prepare and transmit materials on the case for the Governor's review. Members of the OLC may meet with the Governor as well to answer specific questions, review documents from the file, and provide any other requested information relevant to the Governor's decision.
9. If the Governor approves or disapproves a parole, the decision will be transmitted to the Parole Commission for delivery to the inmate. A member of the OLC may, circumstances permitting, meet with an inmate in person to deliver and review a parole approval.