

Special Parole

By: Michelle Kirby, Senior Legislative Attorney
February 1, 2018 | 2018-R-0038

Issue

Summary of Connecticut's Special Parole System. **This report has been updated by OLR Report [2025-R-0054](#).**

Summary

“Special parole” is part of the sentence that a judge can impose when someone is convicted of a crime. The judge can require a period of special parole under parole supervision after an offender completes his or her maximum prison sentence.

Generally, the special parole must be between one and 10 years. However, the court can impose a period of more than 10 years on offenders:

1. convicted of (a) risk of injury to a minor, when it involves a minor under age 16 and contact with intimate parts; (b) 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree sexual assault; (c) 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; (d) sexual assault in a spousal or cohabiting relationship; or (e) 3rd degree sexual assault with a firearm; or
2. sentenced as a (a) persistent dangerous felony offender or (b) persistent serious felony offender.

When the court sentences someone to special parole, it can recommend that the person comply with any or all of the requirements that the court can impose as conditions of probation or conditional discharge. The Board of Pardons and Paroles can require the person to comply with the

Parole

Parole is a decision by the Board of Pardons and Paroles to release an inmate from prison prior to the completion of his or her maximum prison sentence. The offender then serves part of his or her sentence under parole supervision.

recommended requirements and can impose other rules and conditions. (The Board of Pardons and Paroles standard parole conditions can be found [here](#).)

An average of 39 offenders were discharged to special parole each month in 2016 (source: [Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles](#)).

Violation

If a parole officer believes someone has violated the conditions of special parole, the law requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to hold a hearing with the parolee without unnecessary delay. The parolee must be (1) informed at the hearing of the alleged violation and (2) advised by the board employee conducting the hearing of the parolee's due process rights.

If a violation is established, the board can:

1. continue the period of special parole,
2. modify or enlarge the conditions of special parole, or
3. revoke the sentence of special parole ([CGS § 54-125e](#)).

Revocation

A person's special parole can be revoked only if, after the hearing, the board employee recommends revocation and at least two board members of a board panel approve the recommendation ([CGS § 54-127a](#)).

If the board revokes the special parole, the board chairman can issue an order to commit the parolee to prison for any period up to the amount of the unexpired portion of the special parole sentence. If special parole is revoked, the board can, at any time during the unexpired portion of special parole, allow the parolee to be released again on special parole without a court order ([CGS § 54-125e](#)).

A person returned to prison for violating special parole can be kept in prison for a period equal to the unexpired portion of the special parole sentence. But the total term of incarceration and special parole combined cannot exceed the maximum prison sentence authorized for the offense the person was convicted of ([CGS § 54-128\(c\)](#)).

MK:bs