

Release and Parole

Criminal Justice

How release from custody is decided, and why so many people return.

Release is a decision with its own evidence and its own conditions.

1

Eligibility

Sentence type and length set the earliest release point.

2

Reports

Custody conduct, behaviour work and risk reports are compiled.

3

Risk assessment

Structured tools inform the decision without replacing it.

4

Decision

A board or authority decides release and sets licence conditions.

5

Licence and recall

Conditions continue after release; breach can lead to recall.

Educational reference. Recall for breaching conditions, rather than new offending, drives a large share of returns to custody.