

# YOUR PAROLE CONDITIONS EXPLAINED

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If you are granted parole by Parole Board Queensland, there are a number of standard conditions that will be included on your parole order.

This easy guide to your parole conditions is designed to assist you successfully complete your parole order.

***TIP #1: Developing a strong, open and honest working relationship with your Community Corrections officers (Officer) will be key to your successful completion of your parole order.***

## **STANDARD CONDITIONS:**

When does my order end?

- You must comply with all your parole conditions until your custodial end date (CED). Your CED is clearly identified on your parole order.

NOTE: there are circumstances which may change your original CED. For example, if your parole is suspended and you are not returned to prison immediately; OR you are convicted of further offences.

## **Reporting:**

- Upon your release from custody, you will be directed to report to the nominated Community Corrections office within two business days.
  - For example:
    - If you are released on a Monday, you must report by close of business on Wednesday.
    - If you are released on a Thursday, you must report by close of business on Monday.
- After you have reported for the first time - you will be required to report to Community Corrections on a regular basis. Your Officer will make appointment times in consultation with you. If you are unable to make your appointment due to illness or otherwise, you MUST contact your Officer directly.

***TIP #2: These appointments are your priority on parole.***

## **Home visits:**

- You may be subject to home visits while on parole, where your Officer or QCS staff will attend upon your home at either a pre-arranged time or an unscheduled visit. For pre-arranged visits, you must be there to meet with your Officer.

#### Where you live:

- If you are granted Board ordered parole – you will be required to live at an approved address. That address will be identified in the letter from the Board granting you parole. You must not move addresses without permission from your Officer.
- If you want to move – firstly, discuss this with your Officer. You may then be required to provide your new nominated address details and co-resident information to your Officer to allow Community Corrections to undertake a suitability assessment.

***TIP #3: Do not move address unless you have been granted permission by your Officer.***

***TIP #4: Always ensure you provide your Officer with your current phone number***

#### Living at a Boarding house:

- If you are granted parole to reside at a Boarding house – you will only be released when a bed becomes available. You must live at the Boarding house from the day you are released otherwise you may lose your bed.
- If you want to move from the boarding house – the Board encourages you to discuss this with your Officer who may be able to assist you find suitable alternate accommodation however - you MUST NOT move until you have approval from your Officer.

#### Living at a Rehabilitation Centre:

- If you are granted parole to reside at a Live-In Rehabilitation Centre – you will only be released when a bed becomes available at the centre. You must live at the rehabilitation centre from the day you are released otherwise you will lose your bed and placement in the program.
- You may also be subject to a condition that requires you to complete the rehabilitation course and failure to do so could be considered a breach of your parole order.
- If you want to move from the Rehabilitation Centre without having completed the course – the Board encourages you to discuss this with your Officer as other treatment options and suitable accommodation need to be considered. You MUST NOT move unless you have approval from your Officer.

#### Drugs, Alcohol and testing:

- Every parole order states you cannot use or possess any illegal drugs.
- Your order also states you must not use prescription drugs. However, if you have a medical condition (as evidenced by a letter from a doctor) you need to advise your

Officer of this and that your treatment needs require you to use prescription drugs. If you take prescription drugs without advising your Officer of your medical condition and treatment needs, you may be in breach of your order.

- You may also be subject to a condition that you cannot consume alcohol OR that you must stay below a certain level e.g. 0.05% BAC.
- At any time during your order, you may be asked by your Officer to provide a test sample of urine or breath specimen. If you are directed to provide a sample, you must do so.
- Testing positive (to drugs or alcohol where prohibited), failing to provide or testing positive to a non-approved prescription drug is a breach of your order.

***TIP #5: Being open and honest about the challenges you are facing with managing any addiction will help your Officer and the Board understand your situation and provide assistance where possible.***

#### Further offending:

- Being convicted of committing a further offence is a breach of your parole order.

Please note: being charged with further offences may result in your parole order being suspended and you being returned to custody.

#### Curfew:

- The Board or your Officer may require you to comply with a curfew. The standard curfew requires you to be at your approved address from 9pm at night until 5am the next day. If you leave your home during that time without permission you will be in breach of your order.
- You can apply to have your curfew times changed however you will need to explain why the hours need to be varied e.g. your job starts at 5am and you need to leave home at 4.30am to get to work on time.

#### Electronic Monitoring:

- The Board or your Officer may require you to have an Electronic Monitoring (EM) device fitted to your ankle. This device tracks your movements. It is monitored 24 hours a day. The information provided by the device allows your Officer and the Board to monitor your compliance with the parole order and provides evidence of any non-compliance.
- You must ensure that the EM device is charged at all times. If your battery level gets too low, you will be contacted by Corrective Services asking you to charge your device.
- If you remove the EM device, Corrective Services is immediately alerted. In most circumstances, removal of your device will result in your parole being immediately suspended, a warrant for your arrest being issued and you being returned to custody. Please note: damaging your device may result in you being charged with Wilful Damage.

**TIP #6:** If you are fitted with an Electronic Monitoring device ensure you listen carefully to the instructions given by your Officer, particularly about caring for and charging the device. If you don't understand how it works, ask your Officer.

You cannot leave Queensland without permission:

- If you wish to travel interstate for less than 7 days (even simply to cross the NSW border to Tweed Heads) you need the permission of your Officer or the Board.
- Interstate travel for a period longer than 7 days requires you to apply to the Board for permission.
- You are not permitted to travel overseas unless you have been granted permission by the Board. DO NOT book flights or accommodation unless your travel application has been approved.

NOTE: The Board will only grant permission to travel overseas *for compassionate purposes in exceptional circumstances*. You will not be granted permission to travel overseas for a family holiday.

**TIP #7 :** Do not make accommodation or flight bookings to travel interstate until you have spoken to your Officer.

Attending courses, programs, meetings and counselling:

- Your Officer might identify courses or programs or meetings or counselling that might assist you address concerns regarding for example, drug use, anger issues, historical sexual abuse, family counselling, domestic violence or to engage with employment services providers.
- As a result of these discussions, you might be required to attend:
  - Drug Arm
  - Biala
  - Counsellor
  - Psychiatrist
  - Psychologist
  - Complete drug and/or alcohol and/or DV courses
  - Non-residential rehab / day rehab
- You must comply with any direction to attend these appointments in accordance with the parole order conditions. Failure to attend is a breach of your order.
- If you have concerns about the program or the service provider – discuss these concerns with your Officer to investigate any alternatives.

Please note, there may not be any other alternatives available to you and you may still be required to attend, however discussing management strategies with your Officer will assist you comply with your parole order.

**TIP #8:** Ensure you attend any appointments that are made on your behalf.  
If you cannot attend, you should contact your Officer immediately.

Change of name:

- You cannot apply to legally change your name without permission from Corrective Services. If you want to change your name, discuss the process with your Officer.

Domestic Violence condition:

- You are required to advise your Officer if you become subject to a protection order – whether the order is temporary or fixed for period of time. These protection orders may be called a DVO (domestic violence order) or PPN (police protection notice).
- You may also be subject to a condition that you must not commit any act of domestic violence.
  - Domestic or family violence refers to violence, abuse and intimidation between people who are, or have previously been in, an intimate personal relationship, a family relationship or an informal care relationship.
  - It includes acts of physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, technology-facilitated abuse and social abuse, stalking, damage to property, threatening suicide, harming animals and exposing a child to such behaviour.
  - You must comply with this condition even if you are not subject to a Domestic Violence Order (DVO). If you do not comply, you will be in breach of the parole order.
- You may also be required to attend counselling and/or programs in relation to domestic violence. If directed, you must attend. Failure to attend the counselling/program will be a breach of your parole order.
- Please note, if you are also subject to a DVO, a breach of the condition may result in both a breach of your parole order and being charged with a further offence.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE PAROLE CONDITIONS – will the Board suspend my parole?**

- Applications for suspension are made by Community Corrections to the Board.
- By breaching your parole condition/s you place yourself at risk of being suspended.
- The Board will consider an application for suspension on a case by case basis.
- Breaching a single parole order on a single occasion may not immediately lead to a suspension of a parole order however if the breach is serious and the Board considers you pose an unacceptable risk – suspension of your parole order will occur.
- There are a number of competing factors that the Board must consider and weigh up.
- Consistently breaching your parole order will be not be considered favourably.

Please refer to the “What happens if my parole is suspended or cancelled” Fact Sheet for further information.