



Expansion of CDCR's Inmate Locator Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

(September 27, 2017)

Overview

When Proposition 57 was overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 2016, it gave the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) the responsibility of developing and implementing regulations to increase credit-earning opportunities for inmates based on good behavior and program participation. The proposition also allowed for parole consideration of nonviolent felons who have served the full term of the sentence for their primary offense, and who demonstrate they should no longer be considered a current threat to public safety. CDCR wants to be transparent to the public and stakeholders about the effect of these significant changes. Starting September 27, 2017, the Department's Inmate Locator search engine—located on the CDCR website—will be expanded to include up-to-date information on an inmate's release date or eligibility date for parole consideration by the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH), whichever is earliest. Additional resources may be added in the future.

What is CDCR's Inmate Locator?

The Inmate Locator is located on CDCR's public website, and allows anyone to search for an inmate by name or CDCR number to see where the inmate is being housed. It also provides the inmate's age, CDCR number, and admission date, as well as address and driving directions to the institution where they are currently housed.

Why is the Inmate Locator being expanded to include parole consideration eligible dates?

Many inmates are now eligible for parole consideration or release at different times than when they were originally sentenced to prison. There are several reasons for this, including the passage of the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016 (Proposition 57), which created new credit-earning opportunities for inmates, as well as the nonviolent offender parole review process; the passage of new laws, such as Senate Bills 260 and 261 for youthful offenders; and implementation of court-ordered programs, such as the elderly parole program. In order to give inmate families, victims, law enforcement, and the public clear information about the impact of these changes to individual inmates, CDCR expanded its Inmate Locator to display each inmate's earliest parole eligible date. Only the month and year will be displayed.

How is a parole consideration eligible date determined?

The parole eligible date that will be displayed for each inmate will be the earliest date the inmate was (or will be) eligible for release or parole consideration by BPH as of the day the inmate is looked up. For example, a determinately sentenced inmate who was immediately eligible for referral to BPH under the nonviolent offender parole review process when it went into effect on July 1, 2017, and who was not previously eligible for any other parole consideration process by BPH will have "7/2017" listed as his or her parole eligible date.



Similarly, an inmate who was immediately eligible for a youth offender hearing when Senate Bill 260 went into effect on January 1, 2014, and who was not previously eligible for any other parole consideration process will have “1/2014” displayed as his or her parole eligible date.

A life-term inmate who was first eligible for a parole suitability hearing in February 2010 will have “2/2010” displayed as his or her parole eligible date, even though he or she may also be eligible for consideration as youth offender or under the elderly parole program at his or her parole hearings.

What other information will be displayed?

The following information will be displayed for most inmates: name, CDCR number, current age, latest admission date to CDCR, current location (with link to a map of location), parole consideration eligible date (month and year only), information about the parole eligible date explaining if the date is based on a release date, or the date the inmate was (or will be) first eligible for parole consideration by BPH, as a life-term inmate, youth offender, nonviolent offender, or under the elderly parole program.

Will information be available for life without the possibility of parole or condemned inmates?

Inmates serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole will not have a parole consideration eligible date displayed. The Inmate Locator will instead display: *“The inmate shown above was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, and is therefore not eligible for parole consideration at this time.”*

Similarly, condemned inmates will not have a parole consideration eligible date displayed. Instead, the Inmate Locator will display: *“The inmate shown above was sentenced to death and is therefore not eligible for parole consideration.”*

Why is the parole eligible date for some inmates “not available”?

Some inmates’ parole consideration eligible dates will not be available for display. This applies to inmates who have only recently been committed to CDCR, inmates who are serving a sentence from another state pursuant to the Interstate Compact Agreement, and other inmates who are similarly situated.

Are all inmates included in CDCR’s Inmate Locator?

The overwhelming majority of California inmates are included in CDCR’s Inmate Locator. To be included, inmates must be under the custody and jurisdiction of CDCR. Inmates who are in a community correctional facility, fire camp, or other facility that is not a prison will be included in the Inmate Locator, but their specific location will not be disclosed. Inmates who have been released or who are no longer under the custody and jurisdiction of CDCR are not included. Inmates under witness protection, or who are being housed under special circumstances for their own safety are also not included in CDCR’s Inmate Locator.

How often is the information in the Inmate Locator updated?

The information in the Inmate Locator will be updated on a regular basis.