

State of Connecticut
Board of Pardons and Paroles



Info Sheet on Compassionate Parole

Compassionate parole is a statutory release mechanism for individuals who are so physically or mentally debilitated, incapacitated or infirm as to be physically incapable of presenting a danger to society.

Although compassionate parole is often referred to in conjunction with medical parole they are not the same. Comparatively, compassionate parole applies to a narrower range of sentence and offense types and does not require a terminal condition. This info sheet provides an overview of the requirements for submitting an application for compassionate parole to the board which includes an overview of statutory suitability and eligibility criteria.

Eligibility Criteria

I. Inmate must be serving “any sentence of imprisonment” (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-131k).

- The inmate can't be held on special parole mittimus or in pretrial status.

Note: Compassionate parole does not require an inmate to be serving a sentence of more than two years.

II. The inmate cannot be serving a sentence for any of the following (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-131k):

- a capital felony under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012
- murder with special circumstances under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect on or after April 25, 2012

III. The inmate must have served 50% or more of his or her sentence. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-131k).

Note: Risk Reduction Earned Credits (RREC) do not reduce the eligibility date for individuals applying for compassionate parole

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IV. The Board requires applicants to make some showing that all of the following criteria are met.

Inmate must be so:

- physically OR mentally
- debilitated, incapacitated or infirm
- as a result of advanced age OR as a result of a condition, disease or syndrome that is not terminal
- as to be physically incapable of presenting a danger to society

Note: Clinicians should also address these criteria in documentation provided to the Board.

V. The Board requires some clinical input.

- For cases alleging that the inmate is *physically* debilitated, incapacitated or infirm, the Board will refer the case to DOC medical staff for input.
- For cases alleging that the inmate is *mentally* debilitated, incapacitated or infirm the Board will refer the case to the Board's staff psychologist for input. Applicants are welcome to provide additional clinical input in these cases.

Note: The compassionate parole statute does not require a diagnosis from a physician. Instead, the Board requires clinical input to better determine whether an inmate satisfies the statutory suitability criteria which speak to mental or physical condition, disease, or syndrome.

Suitability Criteria. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-131k)

A panel of board members can only release an inmate to compassionate parole if they determine that *such inmate (1) is so physically or mentally debilitated, incapacitated or infirm as a result of advanced age or as a result of a condition, disease or syndrome that is not terminal as to be physically incapable of presenting a danger to society.*