

A man in a dark blue shirt is seated at a wooden table, viewed from behind. He is facing a long wooden desk where three people, presumably judges, are seated. The setting is a courtroom with wood-paneled walls and a grey carpet. An American flag is visible in the background on the left. The overall atmosphere is formal and serious.

Probation and Parole Basics

What Is Probation?



- Probation refers to a court-ordered period of supervision within the community, often as an alternative to jail or prison time.
- Some jurisdictions do sentence “spilt sentences”, which is a combined short-term incarceration sentence directly followed with probation.
- Probations can include a few different supervision statuses:
 - Active supervision (individuals are required to report to a probation authority in person or by mail or telephone).
 - Inactive status (individuals are not required to regularly report to a probation authority). This is the case if the severity of the offense is minimal or if an individual has received a reduction in supervision.
 - Other supervision statuses include probationers who only have financial conditions remaining, have absconded, or who have active warrants.
- While on probation, offenders may be required to fulfill certain conditions of their supervision. This can include paying fees or court costs, participating in treatment programs and adhering to specific rules of conduct while in the community. Failure to comply with any conditions could result in incarceration.

What is Parole?



- Parole refers to a period of community supervision after someone is released from prison.
- While not all released individuals are put on parole, the majority are.
- The average time spent on parole is 19 months.
- Individuals may be released to parole either by a parole board decision or according to provisions of a statute.
- Parolees can have different supervision statuses including active supervision, inactive status or other supervision statuses that include parolees who only have financial conditions remaining, have absconded, or who have active warrants.
- Parolees are also typically required to fulfill certain conditions and obey specific rules of conduct while in the community. Failure to comply with any of the conditions can result in return to incarceration.

Probation

- * Considered an alternative to prison- offenders generally avoid jail or prison time and serve their sentence in the community (under supervision and certain conditions set by a probation officer)
- * Probation is a sentencing decision made by a judge and a judge determines whether a probation violation results in revocation and incarceration.

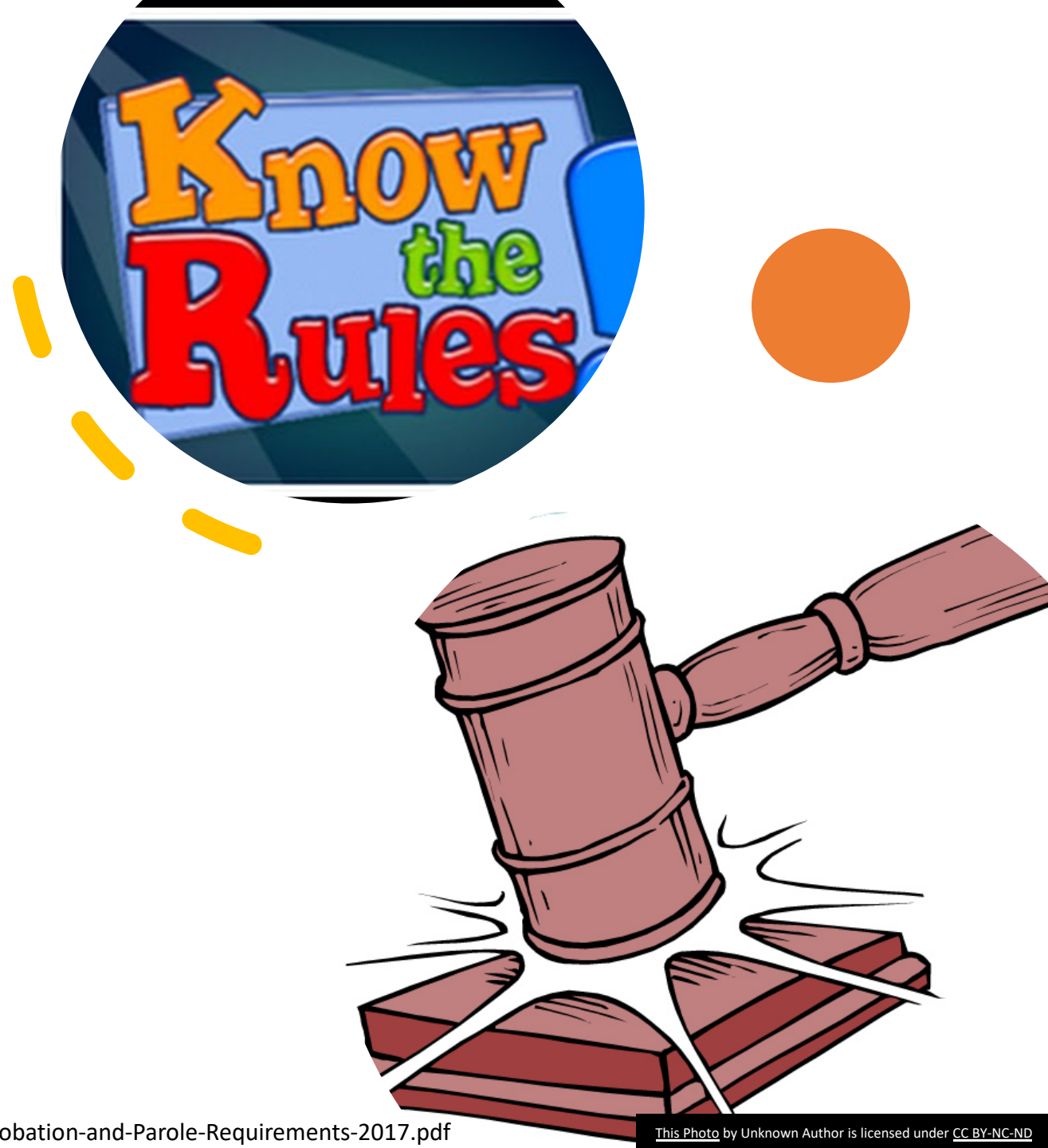
Parole

- * Served as an early release from a correctional facility- offenders serve parole after spending time incarcerated
- * Parole falls under the domain of a parole board and their administrative body is who decides which individuals qualify and under what conditions the parole will be served.

Individuals must obey set conditions or risk revocation and possible incarceration.

Here are some examples of required court-ordered special conditions or rules:

- Reporting to probation or parole offices in person
- Participating in intensive supervision programs
- Not leaving the designated city/state without permission
- Finding and maintaining regular employment
- Not changing residence or employment without permission
 - Not using drugs or alcohol/ not entering drinking establishments
- Not possessing firearms or other dangerous weapons
- Not associating with those who have criminal records
- Urinalysis or blood testing when instructed
- Paying supervision fees
- Obeying all state and local laws



The offender's specific terms of probation or parole are provided in writing at their first visit with their probation or parole officer. Other conditions of probation and parole may include:

- Electronic monitoring and special curfews
- Participating in transitional housing programs
- Paying restitution to victims in a timely manner
- Attending anger management courses
- Following court-ordered alcohol and drug counseling
- Following court-ordered mental health counseling and treatment
- Staying away from the victim(s) of their crime(s), particularly in cases that involved domestic violence, stalking, harassment, or assault
- Registering as a sex offender/ obeying all restrictions for sex offenders



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Who Is Monitoring Me During Probation?

- Depending on the circumstances, either the court (and the judge of that court) or a probation officer will monitor the individual to make sure they follow the probation conditions.^[1]
- Generally, individuals must report to a probation officer once a month, although the judge could require more or less frequent reporting than that.^[2]
- Make sure to stay in contact with your probation officer or it could result in a probation violation hearing.



References

1) *Cal. Penal Code § 1203(a).*

2) *Cal. Penal Code § 1203.1.*

REFERENCES

A photograph of wooden letter blocks arranged on a wooden surface. The word 'REFERENCES' is spelled out in a row of blocks in the center. The background is filled with many other wooden blocks, some of which are blurred, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the wood.