

 <p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES State of Tennessee Department of Correction</p>	Index #: 103.03	Page 1 of 2
	Effective Date: March 15, 2021	
	Distribution: A	
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Approved by: Tony Parker		
Subject: OPEN PAROLE HEARINGS		

- I. AUTHORITY: TCA 4-3-603, TCA 4-3-606, TCA 40-28-502, and TCA 40-28-505.
- II. PURPOSE: To provide for open parole, parole rescission, and parole revocation hearings at Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) institutions.
- III. APPLICATION: All TDOC and privately managed institutional employees and inmates.
- IV. DEFINITIONS: Offender Management System (OMS): The management information system designed to track offender populations and characteristics throughout the TDOC.
- V. POLICY: Parole, parole rescission, and parole revocation hearings shall be open to the public at all TDOC and privately managed institutions.
- VI. PROCEDURES:
 - A. Open Attendance: All parole, parole rescission, and parole revocation hearings at TDOC and privately managed institutions shall be open to the public. Attendees and any personal property shall be subject to the search requirements of Policy #506.06 (Searches). All persons who enter the facility to attend a parole hearing and who have prosthesis or prosthetic equipment as defined in Policy #507.01 (Visitation) shall be allowed and may be required to present a doctor's statement as to the need for such.
 - B. Parole Hearing Notification: Within 90 days of receipt by TDOC of a valid judgment of conviction, the TDOC Victim Services Office shall notify the victim witness coordinator in the jurisdictional District Attorney's office of the inmate's current parole eligibility date (Release Eligibility Date) through electronic or written notification. Notification for a change of name or address of a victim witness coordinator will be submitted to the Manager of Systems Development Services by the Manager of Sentence Management Services, or the TDOC Victim Services Director.
 - C. Persons Attending the Parole Hearing: Before being allowed to enter the facility, all individuals will be screened using the established COVID protocol questions and having their temperature checked. Individuals with temperatures of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed entry into any facility. Upon arrival at the institution individuals supporting the inmate's release to parole will be separated from those opposing the inmate's release to parole. An institutional victim coordinator shall be assigned to each opposing group prior to the parole hearing by the AWT/Deputy Superintendent/designee. Each group will be processed separately through checkpoint and escorted into separate waiting areas, out of the sight of the other group. Each group will be escorted separately into the hearing room at a time determined by the IPPS and the parole official hearing the case. At the announced close of the hearing, individuals opposing the inmate's release to parole will be escorted from the hearing room and returned to the administration building.

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These individuals will then leave the premises before supporters of the inmate's release to parole are escorted back into the administration building.

D. Exceptions to Open Attendance

1. The Warden/Superintendent or parole board representative may restrict the number of individuals allowed to attend parole or parole revocation hearings and may make provisions to separate the supporters and opponents of the inmate's release to parole in accordance with physical limitations or security requirements of each institution.
2. The Warden/Superintendent or parole board representative may deny admission or continued attendance at these hearings to individuals who:
 - a. threatens or present a danger to the security of the institution
 - b. threatens or present a danger to other participants or attendees
 - c. disrupt the hearing
 - d. fails to provide proper identification
3. The Warden/Superintendent shall ensure that proper documentation is maintained when an individual is denied admission to a parole hearing or asked to leave a particular hearing. The decision to deny individuals must be made by the Warden/Superintendent/designee with documentation noted in OMS conversation LIBJ, Visitor Problem. Any person restricted or barred from any TDOC facility for possession of contraband or refusal of a search will not be permitted to enter the facility for parole hearings.
4. All minor children 17 years of age or younger shall be under the continuous supervision and responsibility of their parent(s) or legal guardian in order to attend a parole board hearing. The requirement above does not apply if the person requesting admission is under the age of 18 and legally married to the inmate. Proof of the marriage must have been provided prior to the hearing.

E. All parole hearing attendees and inmates are subject without consent to being photographed and/or recorded by news media during the hearings.

VII. ACA STANDARDS: 5-ACI-5F-06

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE: March 15, 2024