



What You Need to Know About BPH's Commutation & Recall of Sentence Review

Who Can Be Considered?

You may be reviewed by the Board if:

- You have been in prison for at least 25 years without any breaks, and
- You do not fall into any of the groups listed below.

You cannot be considered if you:

- Were convicted of a sexual offense that requires or will require registration under Penal Code 290,
- Have a death sentence,
- Are expected to be released within the next three years,
- Already get parole suitability hearings or will start getting them within the next 3 years, or
- Already received a commutation during your current prison term.

When will I know if I am eligible?

- Case Records will start checking who is eligible in Spring 2027.
- If you are eligible, you will get a notice.
- That notice will tell you your Commutation and Recall of Sentence Eligibility Date (CRED).
- Some people will have CRED dates that are in the past — you will still get a review.

Do I need to apply to be considered?

- No, you do not need to apply or take any action.
- This process does not change other ways you can ask the courts for resentencing or ask the Governor for a commutation.

What if I think there is a mistake about my eligibility?

If you believe something is wrong, fill out a CDCR Form 602-1/1824 and send it to your prison's Office of Grievances. Ask them to have Case Records check your eligibility and make sure your dates were calculated correctly.

What is a C&R review?

A C&R review is a meeting with a Board hearing officer. The hearing officer will look at your criminal history, programming, and institutional behavior and other relevant topics. The hearing officer decides whether to send your case to a full hearing.

Do I need to hire an attorney?

- No, you do not need to hire an attorney.
- Attorneys are not allowed at C&R reviews.
- If you are scheduled for a C&R hearing, an attorney will be given to you for free.

What is the C&R hearing?

- At a C&R hearing, Board hearing officers ask you questions and decide if you are an unreasonable risk to public safety.
- Most hearings will happen by video.
- Victims and the prosecutor will be told about the hearing and can take part if they choose.

How long will it take for reviews and hearings to start?

- Reviews are planned to start in July 2027.
- Hearings are planned to start in July 2028.
- If you have a CRED that is before 2036, you will be reviewed on or before December 31, 2035.

Why is it taking so long?

- The Board needs time to set up the process.
- Staff must be trained.
- The Board must coordinate with the courts and the Governor's Office.
- The Board will also work with Case Records, Adult Institutions, Parole Justice Works, Victim Services, and other groups to make sure everything is ready.

Can I ask for an earlier review?

No. The Board will not move your review or hearing to an earlier date.

Can I get an update on my CRED or when I will be scheduled?

- You will get a notice at least 30 days before your C&R review.
- The Board cannot give updates about your status or timeline before then.

How can I get ready for my review?

- On your tablet, open the Parole Hearing Process Handbook.
- Look for Section 3, which talks about the Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF).
- Understand the SDMF domains—these are the main topics the Board will look at during your review.
- The hearing officers will use the SDMF to decide your case.
- You can also watch the Parole Justice Works videos on your tablet. These videos explain the SDMF.

Is the C&R process different from a parole hearing?

Yes. The C&R process is different. The Board cannot release you in the C&R process. Instead, the Board can recommend your case to the Governor for possible commutation, and the court for possible resentencing.

Where can I learn more?

You can find the regulations and a longer FAQ sheet in your facility's library.