Introduction:

Parole is the discretionary release of an offender from confinement in order to serve the remainder of the sentence pursuant to specified terms and conditions of supervision in the community. Parole is a fundamental function of the correctional process as the public is best protected by a supervised transition of the offender from institutional to community reintegration. The discretionary granting of parole and its revocation are responsibilities of the paroling authority. Supervision of the parolee is provided by a designated agency that monitors compliance with all of the specified terms and conditions of release through a case management process. Parole offers economic advantages to the public, the offender and the correctional system by maximizing opportunities for offenders to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

Policy Statement:

The paroling authority should function under separate and independent decision-making to fully represent the views of all stakeholders. Paroling authorities should seek a balance in weighing the public interest, victim interest and the readiness of the offender to re-enter society under a structured program of supervisory management and control. Paroling authorities should be equipped with resources and technologies for tracking and administering the investigative, supervisory and research functions. Laws and administrative regulations governing the granting of parole, its revocation, case supervision practices and discharge procedures should incorporate standards of due process and administrative fairness. To achieve the maximum benefits of parole supervision, full advantage should be taken of community-based resources available for serving offender employment, training needs, continuing health care and other related services.

The parole system should:

A. Establish procedures to provide an objective decision-making process, incorporating standards of due process and fundamental fairness in granting of parole that will address, at a minimum, the risk to public safety, impact on — and views of — the victim, and information about the offense and offender;

B. Provide access to community services to meet levels of offender risks and needs consistent with realistic objectives for promoting law-abiding behavior;
C. Ensure that supervision requirements will not exceed the minimum needed to adhere to the terms and conditions of parole and are consistent with public safety;

D. Provide a case management system to allocate supervisory resources through a standardized classification process, report parolee progress and monitor individual parolee supervision and treatment plans;

E. Provide for the timely and accurate transmittal of status reports to the paroling authority for use in decision-making with respect to revocation, modification or discharge of parole cases;

F. Establish programs for sharing information, ideas and experiences with other agencies and the public;

G. Involve the public, victims and victims' families in the parole process;

H. Evaluate program efficiency, effectiveness and overall accountability; and

I. Be sensitive to and provide for gender differences and special needs that may affect supervision processes.

This Public Correctional Policy was ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Winter Conference in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1999. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2019 Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA, January 16, 2019.