

Release and back-door strategies in Finland

- *Supervised probationary liberty*
- *Conditional release and supervision*

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Vision

The Criminal Sanctions Agency carries out influential, reliable and significant work for the safety of society.

Main goals

”Path to a life without crime with the help of an active network co-operation”

The content of sentence enforcement and the co-operation with other authorities and third sector operators as well as the close people of the sentenced offender increase the sentenced offender’s abilities to reintegrate into society.

“Safely towards more open and influential enforcement“

Flexible and secure structures and sanction processes enable and support more open and influential enforcement.

”Meaningful work, motivated and healthy personnel”

The Criminal Sanctions Agency is a reliable and respected organisation where skilled and motivated personnel carry out meaningful work.

Basic duty

The Criminal Sanctions Agency is responsible for the implementation of remand imprisonment as well as the enforcement of community sanctions and prison sentences.

Values

Respect for human dignity

Justness

Belief in an individual’s potential to change and grow

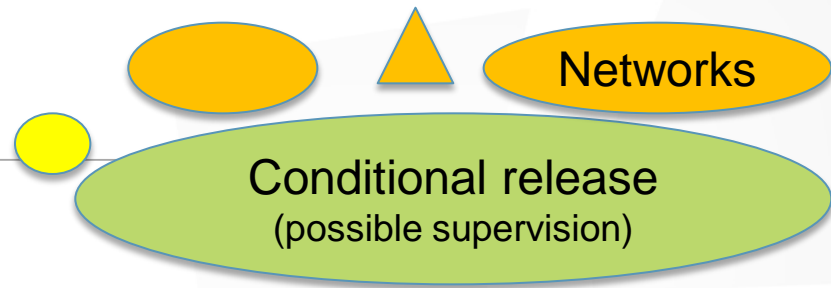
Safety

SENTENCE PLAN

- *An individual plan shall be drawn up for each prisoner for the serving of the term of sentence, release and parole.
(Imprisonment Act, Chapter 4, section 5)*
 - *A broader assessment is made to high-risk offenders (risks and needs assessment, similar to Oasys)*
 - *The plan includes information on the prisoner's placement, activities during the sentence term and release.*
 - *The sentence plan is drawn up by the assessment centre.*
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Gradual release promotes the sentenced offender's controlled return to society and a life without crime

As the sentence advances, the aim is to decrease the intensiveness of the supervision and increase the sentenced offender's own responsibility, which is supported by substance abuse control and other supervision.



Gradual release towards more open enforcement

- example

Supervised probationary liberty,
max 6 months

Release unit or
services of the release network

Open prison
Work outside the prison
(possible ankle tag)

Open prison
(possible ankle tag)

Open ward
in closed prison

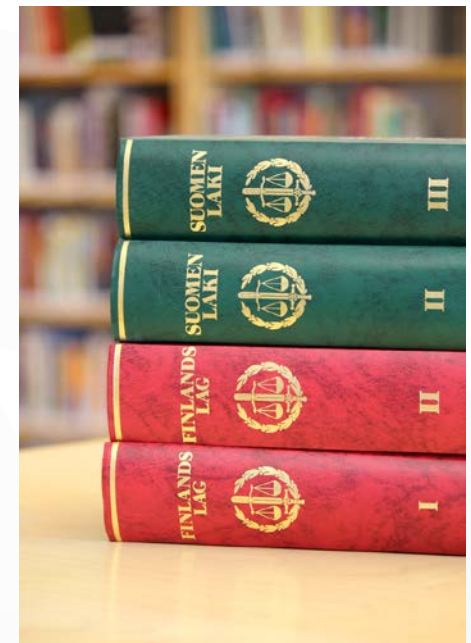
Closed prison

PROBATIONARY LIBERTY UNDER SUPERVISION

A prisoner may, for the promotion of his or her social adjustment, be placed in probationary liberty under special supervision effected by technical means or otherwise through special means for at most six months before conditional release.

Criminal Code of Finland,
Chapter 2c, section 8(1)

- Tuli voimaan 2006



Preparation of probationary liberty

- Often a multiphase process where the prisoner has to be active
 - Carefully defined obligation to participate in activities and daily schedule: e.g. work, studies, rehabilitating activities and activities maintaining the ability to function
 - Obligation to participate in activities can also be applied to leisure time
 - Planning of the activities often requires co-operation with the networks (municipalities, NGOs)
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Supervision of probationary freedom

- Supervision patrol visits at home & the activity place
 - Also telephone calls to the condemned & the activity place
 - Person placed in probationary liberty makes so-called check calls e.g. in the mornings, and visits a prison or a community sanctions office as ordered
 - Substance tests (breath, saliva, urine or blood test)
 - Electronic monitoring with the help of GSM/GPS location, along with the new act also ankle tag
 - Moving area is clearly defined (individual consideration)
 - Person placed in probationary liberty has to stay at home (usually) between 22:00 and 6:00
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Times of conditional release

- Juveniles: under 21 when crime committed
- First-timers: no prison sentences for three years
- Life-sentence: Minimum 12 yrs, (juveniles 10 yrs)
 - application to Helsinki court of appeal also decision on whether supervised probationary freedom required

Table on times of conditional release:

RELEASE	First timer	Recidivist	Life-sentence
Juvenile	1 / 3	1 / 2	Application after 10 yrs
Adult	1 / 2	2 / 3	Application after 12 yrs

Supervision of conditionally released prisoners

- Supervision is ordered when
 1. probationary period is more than one year or
 2. crime is committed under the age of 21 or
 3. prisoner requests to be placed under supervision
 4. risk of reoffending is high (proposition)
 - Maximum length of supervision is three years (as is of prob.period)
 - 3682 released prisoners in 2012, out of them 742 (appr. 20%) under supervision
 - Community sanctions offices are responsible for organising
 - Preparation starts at the latest six months before release
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Supervision of conditionally released prisoners

- Individual plan of release is prepared by prison officials, in co-operation with
 - the supervisor from community sanctions office
 - representation of the home municipality of the prisoner
 - Motivation of the prisoner is essential
 - Duty to report at the office immediately (= 3 days)
 - Meetings with supervisor are obligatory 2-1 times/month
 - Duty to participate in planning
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Supervision of conditionally released prisoners

- Supervision appointments and participation in programs
 - If in need of special support and/or control max 30h/month
 - If susp. of client being under the influence of substances > a report and a breathtest
 - Police can fetch the client to supervision appointment
 - Sanctions if breaches occur:
 - written warning
 - notification of breaches to the public prosecutor
 - > prosecutor can request imprisonment of 4-14 days
 - If supervision becomes unnecessary, can be terminated
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