

10A:71-3.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Actual eligibility date” shall mean the date that an adult inmate is actually eligible for consideration for parole. Such date shall be calculated, except as otherwise provided by statute, by the application of the following credits: commutation credits; credit for time served in a county jail prior to the date of sentence; earned work and earned minimum custody credits as of a specified date.

“Book eligibility date” shall mean the parole eligibility date established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.51 and N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.64. Such date shall be calculated by application of credit for time served in a county jail prior to the date of sentence, and except as otherwise provided for by statute, commutation credits.

“Flat eligibility date” shall mean the parole eligibility date established on an individual term pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.51 and N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.64 prior to aggregation for the purposes of the calculation of a single parole eligibility date. Such date shall be calculated by the application of credit for time served in a county jail prior to the date of sentence.

“Primary eligibility date” shall mean the parole eligibility date established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.51 and N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.64, based upon the sentence imposed by the court or the Board schedules contained in N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.3, 7.16, 7.16A and 7.16B. Such date may be altered pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.4, 3.5 and 3.21.

“Projected eligibility date” shall mean that date calculated by the application, except as otherwise provided by statute, of the following credits: commutation credits; credit for time served in a county jail prior to the date of sentence; earned work and minimum custody credits as of a specific date and projected work and minimum custody credits based on a pattern of such credits established by the Department. Any change in the pattern shall be reported by the Department to the Board.

“Maximum date” shall, except as otherwise provided by statute and herein, mean the court ordered maximum date less commutation credits, credit for time served in a county jail prior to the date of sentence, earned work and earned minimum custody credits as determined by the Department or the county correctional authority.

Amended by R.1985 d.213, effective May 6, 1985.
See: 16 N.J.R. 3391(a), 17 N.J.R. 1096(a).

Section substantially amended.
Amended by R.1990 d.141, effective March 5, 1990.
See: 21 N.J.R. 3411(c), 22 N.J.R. 825(a).

Introductory language added.
Amended by R.1995 d.109, effective February 21, 1995.
See: 26 N.J.R. 4150(a), 27 N.J.R. 686(b).
Amended by R.1997 d.168, effective April 7, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 3870(a), 29 N.J.R. 1318(a).
Amended “Primary eligibility date”.

Case Notes

Commutation time accrues faster on longer or aggregated terms than on shorter or nonaggregated terms. *State v. Richardson*, 208 N.J.Super. 399, 506 A.2d 43 (App.Div.1986), certification denied 523 A.2d 188, 105 N.J. 552.

10A:71-3.2 Calculation of parole eligibility terms

(a) This section shall not apply to adult inmates sentenced pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:113-4 for a term of life imprisonment, N.J.S.A. 2A:164-17 for a fixed minimum and maximum term or N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1(b). The aggregation provisions of N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.1, et seq. shall apply to such inmates.

(b) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.3(i), this section shall not apply to juvenile or young adult inmates.

(c) The parole eligibility terms for adult inmates shall be determined by the following:

1. Where a life term, with no mandatory-minimum term, has been imposed, the parole eligibility term shall, except as provided in (c)3 below, be 25 years.

2. Where a specific term, with no mandatory-minimum term, has been imposed, the parole eligibility term shall, except as provided in (c)3 below, be one-third of the specific term or 25 years, whichever is less.

3. Where a life term or a specific term with a judicial or statutory mandatory minimum term has been imposed, the parole eligibility term shall be the mandatory minimum term, provided that such minimum term is greater than otherwise required by subsection (c)1 or (c)2 above.

4. Where the inmate is serving a term and a concurrent or consecutive specific term, with no mandatory-minimum term, is subsequently imposed on or after June 21, 1994, the parole eligibility term on the subsequently imposed specific term shall be one-third of the balance of the specific term determined by reducing the specific term by credit awarded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:44-5(b)(2).

5. Where the inmate is serving time due to a revocation of parole, the parole eligibility term shall be the future parole eligibility term set by the appropriate Board panel upon revocation of parole pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-7.16, 7.16A or 7.16B.

6. Where the inmate has been required to serve an additional term due to institutional infractions, the parole eligibility term shall include any additional term of incarceration required to be served.

7. Where a specific term to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center has been imposed, the inmate shall be eligible for parole consideration only upon recommendation by the Special Classification Review Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:47-5 except that in no case shall an inmate

committed to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center become eligible for parole prior to the expiration of any mandatory minimum term imposed.

i. When an inmate committed to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center is transferred out of the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center by order of the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:47-4(b), the inmate shall be eligible for parole consideration pursuant to (c)1, 2, 3 or 5 above as appropriate.

8. Where the inmate has been denied parole and required to serve a future eligibility term pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.21, a new book eligibility date shall be established by adding the additional term to the current book eligibility date and by including, in the case of an adult inmate, commutation credits based on the additional term only.

9. Where the inmate's actual eligibility date has passed at the time of the initial parole release hearing and the inmate has been denied parole and required to serve a future eligibility term pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.21, a new book date shall be established by adding the additional term to the actual eligibility date and by including, in the case of an adult inmate, commutation credit based on the additional term only.

10. If an inmate has been returned to confinement from the Intensive Supervision Program for any reason and if the inmate's parole eligibility date has passed at the time the inmate is returned to confinement, the following provisions shall apply in the case of an inmate denied parole release on or after May 21, 1990:

i. A new book eligibility date shall be established by adding the additional term established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.21 to the date of the inmate's return to confinement.

ii. In the case of an adult inmate, the new book date shall include commutation credits based on the additional term only.

iii. In the case of an adult inmate, only work and minimum credits earned from the date of the inmate's return to confinement shall be applied in the calculation of the actual eligibility date. In the case of a young adult inmate, program participation credits determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.3 shall be applied to reduce the primary eligibility date established pursuant to this section.

(d) When a consecutive term is imposed, the parole eligibility term derived from the consecutive term, less county jail credits, shall be added to the parole eligibility term derived from the original term, less county jail credits, to determine the aggregate parole eligibility term. Applicable credits pursuant to (g)2 and (g)3 below shall be deducted from the aggregate parole eligibility term unless said term is determined pursuant to (c)3 above.

(e) When a concurrent term(s) is imposed, the parole eligibility term from the original term, less county jail credits, shall be added to the date the original term began to determine the flat eligibility date on the original term. The parole eligibility term on the concurrent term(s), less county jail credits, shall be added to the date the concurrent term(s) began to determine the flat eligibility date on the concurrent sentence. The aggregate parole eligibility term shall be that period of time between:

1. The earlier of the two dates on which the terms began; and

2. The later of the two flat parole eligibility dates. Applicable credits pursuant to (g)2 and (g)3 below shall be deducted from the aggregate parole eligibility term unless said term is determined pursuant to (c)3 above.

(f) Where a specific term to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center has been imposed, and the inmate has not been transferred out of the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:47-4(b), the parole eligibility term, for the purposes of aggregation with any specific or life term, shall be set by the adult Board panel upon its acceptance of the recommendation by the Special Classification Review Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:47-1, et seq.

(g) Credits shall reduce parole eligibility terms as follows:

1. County jail credits pursuant to R.3:21-8 shall reduce any parole eligibility terms determined pursuant to (c) above.

2. Commutation credits applied pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-140 and credits for diligent application to work and other assignments earned pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-92 shall reduce any aggregate parole eligibility terms except those determined pursuant to (c)3 above.

3. When an aggregate parole eligibility term includes a parole eligibility term determined pursuant to (c)3, such aggregate term shall be reduced by credits pursuant to (g)2 provided, however, that such credits accrued shall only be awarded subsequent to the expiration of the eligibility term determined pursuant to (c)3 above as calculated from the date such parole eligibility term began.

4. Upon the expiration of a parole eligibility term determined pursuant to (c)3 above, commutation credits and credits for diligent application to work and other assignments accrued during the service of the parole eligibility term determined pursuant to (c)3 above shall not reduce an adjusted parole eligibility date established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.4 or a future parole eligibility date established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.21, 3.47, 7.16, 7.16A or 7.16B.

(h) Parole eligibility terms shall be restricted as follows:

1. No inmate committed for a specific term(s) of years at the State Prison or the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women shall become primarily eligible for parole until service of a full nine months of the aggregate term less any county jail credits, provided, however, that when the specific terms of years to the State Prison or the Correctional Institution for Women is less than 12 months this restriction shall not apply.

2. No aggregate parole eligibility term resulting from the aggregation of specific terms, which do not include a mandatory-minimum term(s), shall exceed 25 years.

3. No parole eligibility term resulting from a non-criminal violation(s) of parole conditions shall, after deductions for credits pursuant to (g)2 above, exceed 12 months.

Amended by R.1985 d.213, effective May 6, 1985.
See: 16 N.J.R. 3391(a), 17 N.J.R. 1096(a).

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1988 d.336, effective July 18, 1988.
See: 19 N.J.R. 1396(b), 20 N.J.R. 1716(b).

Added (g)4.

Administrative correction, effective January 27, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 558(a).

Institutional name change.

Amended by R.1990 d.141, effective March 5, 1990.
See: 21 N.J.R. 3411(c), 22 N.J.R. 825(a).

Internal N.J.A.C. cites amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.257, effective May 21, 1990.
See: 22 N.J.R. 899(a), 22 N.J.R. 1609(a).

In (c)7: deleted text with requirement that future parole eligibility terms imposed upon the denial of parole commence upon the date of the initial parole release hearing in specified cases. Added (c)8.
Amended by R.1993 d.399, effective August 16, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1665(a), 25 N.J.R. 3826(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.109, effective February 21, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4150(a), 27 N.J.R. 686(b).

Amended by R.1997 d.168, effective April 7, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 3870(a), 29 N.J.R. 1318(a).

In (c)5 and (g)4, inserted additional N.J.A.C. reference.

Amended by R.1998 d.144, effective March 16, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4243(a), 30 N.J.R. 1044(a).

In (g)4, substituted a reference to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.47 for a reference to N.J.A.C. 10A:71-3.46.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Gap-time Credits. Steven P. Bann, 137 N.J.L.J. No. 9, 54 (1994).

Case Notes

Defendant was not entitled to credit against sentence imposed on new charges for time spent in presentence custody after parole warrant was lodged; after parole warrant was lodged. *State v. Harvey*, 273 N.J.Super. 572, 642 A.2d 1052 (A.D.1994).

One-third gap-time credit toward parole eligibility. *Booker v. New Jersey State Parole Bd.*, 136 N.J. 257, 642 A.2d 984 (1994).

Parole Board required to reduce aggregate sentence by gap-time credit prior to computing primary eligibility date where there is no parole disqualifier in sentence. *Booker v. New Jersey State Parole Bd.*, 265 N.J.Super. 191, 625 A.2d 1153 (A.D.1993), certification granted 134 N.J. 486, 634 A.2d 532, certification granted 134 N.J. 487, 634 A.2d 532, affirmed 136 N.J. 257, 642 A.2d 984.

Gap-time credit inapplicable where initial sentence had term of parole ineligibility. *Booker v. New Jersey State Parole Bd.*, 265 N.J.Super. 191, 625 A.2d 1153 (A.D.1993), certification granted 134

N.J. 486, 634 A.2d 532, certification granted 134 N.J. 487, 634 A.2d 532, affirmed 136 N.J. 257, 642 A.2d 984.

Gap-time credit only reduces aggregate term after inmate serves period of parole ineligibility. *Booker v. New Jersey State Parole Bd.*, 265 N.J.Super. 191, 625 A.2d 1153 (A.D.1993), certification granted 134 N.J. 486, 634 A.2d 532, certification granted 134 N.J. 487, 634 A.2d 532, affirmed 136 N.J. 257, 642 A.2d 984.

Imposition of indeterminate sentence upon young adult offender following parole violation was supported by evidence. *State v. Berger*, 258 N.J.Super. 553, 610 A.2d 892 (A.D.1992).

Imposition of indeterminate sentence upon young adult offender following violation of probation was permissible. *State v. Berger*, 258 N.J.Super. 553, 610 A.2d 892 (A.D.1992).

Regulation providing for calculating commutation credits for parole eligibility was valid. *Alevras v. Delanoy*, 245 N.J.Super. 32, 583 A.2d 778 (A.D.1990), certification denied 126 N.J. 330, 598 A.2d 888.

Commitment at treatment facility for sex offenders was warranted. *State v. Hass*, 237 N.J.Super. 79, 566 A.2d 1181 (L.1988).

Gap-time credit applied only to base term of aggregated sentences. *Richardson v. Nickolopoulos*, 110 N.J. 241, 540 A.2d 1246 (1988).

Trial court must inform sex offenders of the possibility and parole consequences of a sentence to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center before accepting a guilty plea pursuant to a plea agreement. *State v. Howard*, 110 N.J. 113, 539 A.2d 1203 (1988).

Actions of trial court in sentencing defendant to adult diagnostic and treatment center implicated due process liberty interests which arose from expectation that parole standards for center and rehabilitative procedures would not be applied absent finding of repetitive and compulsive behavior as required by statute, but which did not depend on finding that sentence at center carried more severe parole consequences than ordinary prison sentence. *State v. Howard*, 110 N.J. 113, 539 A.2d 1203 (1988).

Sentencing judge did not err in determining that presumption against imprisonment of first offender was overcome because defendant was a volunteer fireman; custodial sentence imposed should have been one of several meaningful conditions of probation. *State v. Gardner*, 215 N.J.Super. 84, 521 A.2d 357 (App.Div.1987), remanded 113 N.J. 510, 551 A.2d 981.

Rules control aggregation of sentences for purposes of parole. *State v. Richardson*, 208 N.J.Super. 399, 506 A.2d 43 (App.Div.1986), certification denied 523 A.2d 188, 105 N.J. 552.

Defendant's resentencing, at his own option, from a 17-year term under the then new Code of Criminal Justice to a 30-year term under the prior statutory scheme was not an enhancement of punishment in violation of double jeopardy principles. *State v. McMeekin*, 204 N.J.Super. 496, 499 A.2d 515 (App.Div.1985), certification denied 508 A.2d 188, 102 N.J. 302.

Parole eligibility date reduction methods examined; due process violated for imposition of a sentence five times greater than original sentence, absent justification, after successful challenge to illegal original sentence. *State v. Heisler*, 192 N.J.Super. 586, 471 A.2d 805 (App.Div.1984).

Commutation time accrues faster on longer or aggregated terms than on shorter or nonaggregated terms. *State v. Richardson*, 208 N.J.Super. 399, 506 A.2d 43 (App.Div.1986), certification denied 523 A.2d 188, 105 N.J. 552.

Aggregation of three consecutive indeterminate sentences for setting of maximum parole release date proper; rule regarding serving of consecutive indeterminate sentences valid; rule did not apply where consecutive indeterminate sentences imposed as part of one judgment of conviction and sentencing (citing former N.J.A.C. 10:35-57.4 and 57.7). *State v. Lucas*, 164 N.J.Super. 57, 395 A.2d 564 (Law Div.1978).

10A:71-3.3 Parole eligibility for young adult inmates

(a) Except as provided herein, an inmate sentenced to an indeterminate term of years as a young adult inmate shall be primarily eligible for parole consideration on a date established by a hearing officer or the young adult Board panel pursuant to the following schedule of presumptive primary eligibility dates:

PRESUMPTIVE PRIMARY ELIGIBILITY DATES (MONTHS)
LENGTH OF INDETERMINATE TERM
(Years)

Crime Category	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-Life
Category A		40	56	74	90	106	120
Category B	16	32	40	48	56	56	56
Category C	16	28	36	44	52		
Category D	14	20	28	36	44		
Category E	12	14	18	22	22		
Category F	10	10					
Category G	8						

- Category A: Murder.
- Category B: Aggravated manslaughter, kidnapping first degree, aggravated sexual assault, or any other first degree crime.
- Category C: Robbery first degree.
- Category D: Manslaughter, robbery second degree, aggravated assault second degree, sexual assault, or any other second degree crime.
- Category E: Manufacturing, distributing or dispensing a controlled dangerous substance second degree or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled dangerous substance second degree.
- Category F: Burglary third degree, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose third degree, unlawful possession of a weapon third degree, terroristic threats, aggravated assault third degree, death by auto, endangering the welfare of a child third degree, any other third degree crime or possession of controlled dangerous substance.
- Category G: Criminal sexual contact, forgery fourth degree, unlawful possession of a weapon fourth degree, certain persons not to have weapons, criminal trespass, or any other fourth degree crime.

(b) The presumptive primary eligibility date established pursuant to (a) above may be reduced by up to ten months if the young adult Board panel or the hearing officer establishing the date determines that one or more mitigating factors such as, but not limited to, the following are present:

1. The inmate has no prior adult convictions.
2. The inmate has previously adjusted successfully to parole or probation.
3. The inmate acted under strong provocation.
4. The inmate did not contemplate that his or her conduct would cause or threaten serious injury.
5. The inmate has no prior incarcerations.

(c) The presumptive primary eligibility date established pursuant to (a) above may be increased by up to 10 months if the young adult Board panel or the hearing officer establishing the date determines that one or more of the following aggravating factors are present:

1. The inmate has an extensive prior record.
2. The inmate's prior record consists of particularly serious crimes.
3. The inmate has previously adjusted unsuccessfully to parole or probation supervision or the present term involves unsuccessful adjustment to probation supervision.
4. The current offense was premeditated.

5. The inmate used a weapon during the current offense.
6. The current offense involved an injury to the victim.
7. The inmate has received additional concurrent or consecutive sentences.

(d) If an inmate has received more than one term, the longest term imposed shall be used in determining the presumptive primary eligibility date or, if the terms are of equal length, the crime which, in the opinion of the hearing officer or the young adult Board panel, represents the most serious crime shall be used in determining the presumptive primary eligibility date.

(e) The young adult Board panel may establish a primary eligibility date which differs from that required by the provisions of (a), (b) and (c) above, if the primary eligibility date which would be established pursuant to such subsections is clearly inappropriate in consideration of the circumstances of the crime and the characteristics and prior criminal record of the inmate.

1. If, in the opinion of the hearing officer establishing the primary eligibility date, the date which would be established pursuant to (a), (b) and (c) above is clearly inappropriate as provided herein, the hearing officer shall refer such case to the young adult Board panel.
2. The young adult Board panel or the hearing officer shall, at least 14 days prior to the Board panel's determination of the primary eligibility date, notify the inmate in writing that a primary eligibility date pursuant to (a), (b) and (c) above has not been established and the reasons therefor.
3. The young adult Board panel shall, upon disposition of the case, state in writing to the inmate and the Board the reasons for the establishment of any primary eligibility date which differs from the provisions of (a), (b) and (c) above.

(f) Credit awarded by the sentencing court pursuant to R.3:21-8 for time served in a county jail prior to the date of sentence shall reduce the presumptive primary eligibility date established pursuant to (a), (b), (c) or (e) above.

(g) Except as provided herein, any primary eligibility date for a young adult offender established pursuant to this section or N.J.A.C. 10A:71-7.16, 7.16A or 7.16B may be reduced through program participation by the inmate.

1. If such inmate's level of program participation is above average, the reduction shall be the rate of 15 days for every month of the primary eligibility term less jail credits.

2. If such inmate's level of program participation is average, the reduction shall be at the rate of 10 days for every month of the primary eligibility jail term less jail credits.

3. If such inmate's level of program participation is below average, the 150 reduction shall be at the rate of

five days for every month of the primary eligibility term less jail credits.

4. If such inmate's level of program participation is poor, no reduction shall be made.