



Service



Objective of service of sentence

Prisoners should be guaranteed safe and well-organized service of sentences with humane and respectful interaction in circumstances and an environment encouraging prisoners to address their situations. The objective is to promote a successful penance and readjustment of prisoners in the community.

Service of sentence in phases

Effort is made for service of sentence being divided into phases. The goal is that you are not in a closed facility the whole time.

Upon arrival at prison you receive a letter of service stating the main dates of significance, as well as when you may have opportunity to be placed in a halfway house, receive an electronic ankle tag and be released on parole.

The decision on which prison you are placed is based, among other things, on your gender identity, your place of state, your criminal background and the length of your sentence.

If you abide by the rules, utilize all treatment and service provided in prison, and shows good behavior, you are more likely to be allowed transfer to an open prison and to serve your sentence outside of prison.

Placement at a health or treatment facility

A temporary service of sentence or the service in its entirety, at a health or treatment facility is permitted if this is deemed as necessary.



Closed prisons

The Hólmsheiði and Litla-Hraun facilities are closed prisons. The security there is more extensive than at the open prisons, there are fences around the prisons, the cells are locked during the night, visitation takes place in special rooms and less access to computers.

■ Hólmsheiði

Hólmsheiði is a closed prison, intended as a reception facility, a women's and remand-custody prison. Prisoners at Hólmsheiði are enabled to engage in study and work.

■ Litla-Hraun

Litla-Hraun is a closed prison. Mainly male prisoners with longer sentences stay there. Litla-Hraun offers a variety of options for prisoners to work and study, and there is good access to a sports hall.

Open prisons

Kvíabryggja and Sogn are open prisons with no bars, fences or walls closing off the area. You must abide by strict rules and are required to participate in the activities there.

The following applies to those eligible to serve their sentence there:

- A 2-year sentence or longer.
- Be able to engage in work or study at the prison.
- Have no record of disciplinary conduct over the last 3 months.
- Be entrusted access to the Internet.
- Be able to tackle a drug problem if such exists.

■ Sogn

Sogn is an open prison located close to Hveragerði town. All genders can be placed there.

Available work:

- Cooking.
- Fish farming.
- Garden work, maintenance and cleaning.
- Taking care of poultry.
- Available projects in the neighborhood in collaboration with farmers and others.



Prisoners may engage in study from the prison at the secondary school level (South Iceland Secondary School). Distant learning may also take place at other secondary schools and colleges.

■ Kvíabryggja

Kvíabryggja is an open prison on the Snæfellsnes peninsula, mainly intended for male prisoners. Good facilities are offered for work and physical training.

Available work:

- General farming, including sheep farming.
- Maintenance and cleaning.
- Other occasional work.



The prisoners have the option of long-distance learning under the guidance of educational advisors.

If you do not abide by the rules of the open prison, you may be returned to a closed prison.

Service outside prison

It is important to apply early for serving a part of your sentence outside of prison, so that you can do that as soon as you are eligible.

Halfway house

You may serve a part of your sentence at a halfway house like Vernd. The conditions for being eligible to be transferred include the following:

- Having served $\frac{1}{3}$ of your time.
- Engaging in work, study, vocational training or rehabilitation.
- No record of disciplinary action in the past 3 months.
- Having no unfinished business with the police or the judiciary.
- No record of influence of alcohol or other stimulants during your sentence.
- Not having escaped from prison over the last 2 years.
- Paying the attendance fee in advance.

Young age or old offences and good behavior may result in exemptions.

Electronic monitoring

If you have been sentenced for 12 months or more, you may apply for completing the service of sentence at home wearing an electronic ankle tag.

A 12-month sentence may result in electronic monitoring being an option for up to 60 days. The maximum time with an electronic ankle tag is 360 days.



Conditions for ankle tag:

- Having been at a halfway house or been eligible, however, not being able to for reasons out of your control.
- Having a permanent place of stay which has been accepted by the Prison and Probation Administration.
- Obtaining the consent of those you live with or landlord about you being able to stay there under electronic monitoring.
- Engaging in work, study, vocational training or rehabilitation.
- Not having violated the rules on electronic monitoring over the last 3 years.
- Not having unfinished business with the police or the courts unless such instances have been unduly delayed.

Parole

Parole can be allowed after:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ of the time if you are serving a sentence for minor violations.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of the time if you are a foreign prisoner and have received a deportation order by the Directorate of Immigration.
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of the time if you are serving penalty for serious offences, for example, sexual offence, serious violence and major narcotics offence.
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of the time if you were 21 years of age or younger when you committed the offence, and have exercised good behavior during service.

Parole is generally not allowed if:

- You have unfinished business with the police or the justice system, unless service has been unduly delayed.
- You have repeatedly committed offences (are on your 7th parole or more) or have frequently violated the conditions for parole – unless your behavior is very good.
- Your parole was suspended in part or you are serving a fine as an alternative penalty.
- Parole is deemed as inadvisable, for example, because of bad behavior during service of sentence or you are deemed as posing a threat to others.

This information is based among other things on Act no. 15/2016 on the Serving of Sentences and the rules set by the Prison and Probation Administration. These rules are available at all wards.

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