

SOUTH DAKOTA  PAROLE BOARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES		POLICY NUMBER 8.1. A.15	PAGE NUMBER 1 OF 4
		DISTRIBUTION: Public	
		SUBJECT: Revocation of Suspended Sentence	
RELATED STANDARDS:	N/A	EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/10/2026	
		SUPERSESSSION: 3/12/2025	
DESCRIPTION: Parole Board	REVIEW MONTH: February	 Myron Rau, Chair Board of Pardons and Paroles	

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the South Dakota Department of Corrections Board of Pardons and Paroles to outline the procedure for proceeding with the revocation of suspended sentence.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish objective standards for compliance and non-compliance with suspended sentence.

III. DEFINITIONS

Disposition Meeting

An informal meeting between the offender and the Parole Board Administration Manager, or designee, to assist in determining the options the offender may choose in the matter of their non-compliance with their Individual Program Directive, non-compliance with their suspended sentence, or parole and/or suspended sentence revocation. The disposition meeting also assists in determining and agreeing upon a resolution and sanction in the matter, or the scheduling of a non-compliance or revocation hearing before the parole board.

Hearing Officers

The chair of the board may designate individual board members as hearing officers who may conduct hearings pursuant to SDCL chapters 24-13, 24-14, 24-15, and 24-15A, take testimony and make recommendations to the board.

Hearing Panel

The chair of the board may designate panels of two or more board members to conduct hearings pursuant to SDCL chapters 24-13, 24-14, 24-15, and 24-15A, take testimony, and take final action. SDCL 24-15A-10

Suspended Sentence Notice

The written notice that shall be served on all offenders that contains: their name, DOC number, a statement that she/he must conform to the rules and program requirements of the Department of Corrections, maintain a good disciplinary record, and satisfactorily participate in programs as assigned, and that any violation may result in the offender's suspended sentence being imposed, and that the board may impose all or a portion of the offender's suspended sentence after a due process hearing. If a notice does not get served upon an offender, this policy does not apply. Offenders who receive a copy of the notice but refuse to sign acknowledging receipt of the notice will still be considered to have been served for purposes of this policy.

SECTION	SUBJECT	DOC POLICY	Page 2 of 4
Parole Board	Revocation of Suspended Sentence	8.1.A.15	Effective: 6/10/2026

Suspended Sentence Status Report:

A written report submitted to the board of pardons and paroles to be used as evidence of an offender's violation of suspended sentence conditions. Attachments to the report will include, but are not limited to: suspended sentence notice, copy of disciplinary record, program refusal information (if applicable), program termination information (if applicable).

Types of Suspended Sentence Violation Hearings

The following suspended sentence violation hearings are held subsequent to the disposition meeting process. (*See Policy 8.1.A.3 Dispositional Meetings*). These hearings are typically held once a month during a Special Session held by a hearing panel or hearing officer.

- A. Revocation Waiver Hearing – the offender (with or without counsel) has reached an agreement of resolution and sanction during the dispositional meeting process, which is presented to a hearing panel or hearing officer for review and ratification.
- B. Initial/Contested – the offender did not reach an agreement during the dispositional meeting process and is contesting the allegations specified in the violation report at a hearing before a hearing panel or hearing officer.
- C. Mitigation Only – the offender did not reach an agreement during the dispositional meeting process and the offender has requested to appear before a hearing panel or hearing officer, admit to the alleged violations and offer mitigation.
- D. Rejected Recommendation – the hearing panel or hearing officer has rejected the agreed upon resolution or sanction and requested the offender appears before a new hearing panel or hearing officer for final revocation action.

IV. PROCEDURES

Suspended Sentence Supervision Notice:

- A. All offenders admitted to the Department of Corrections will be served a suspended sentence notice by staff during the admissions process or as soon thereafter as is practical.
 - 1. The suspended sentence notice will be explained and served on the offender by unit staff. An offender signature is encouraged but not required. If an offender refuses to sign the notice, staff will note such refusal on the paperwork.
 - 2. Staff will sign and date the notice when served, scan notice into COMS, and file original notice.

Suspended Sentence Compliance Standards:

- A. Disciplinary compliance is scored from the date the suspended sentence notice is presented to the offender to the offender's suspended sentence release date (SSRD). Or, if the offender has a previous parole revocation, disciplinary compliance is scored from the date of the most recent board action of "revoke" to the offender's SSRD.
 - a. Disciplinary non-compliance:
 - 1. An offender is determined to be in violation of the disciplinary requirement if the per month average of his/her disciplinary points is at or exceeds 1.0.
 - i. Each High (H-) category infraction counts as ten (10) points
 - ii. Each Medium (M-) category infraction counts as six (6) points
 - iii. Each Low (L-) category infraction counts as three (3) points

SECTION	SUBJECT	DOC POLICY	Page 3 of 4
Parole Board	Revocation of Suspended Sentence	8.1.A.15	Effective: 6/10/2026

2. In situations where multiple disciplinary reports or infractions are included for a single incident, only the most serious category infraction will be scored.
3. Only disciplinary reports where the finding is “guilty” will be scored
- b. If an offender is found to be non-compliant with the disciplinary requirement at a suspended sentence violation hearing and the board does not impose or partially imposes the suspended sentence, future compliance will be scored from the date of that hearing to the suspended sentence release date.
- B. Programming compliance is applicable from the date the suspended sentence notice is presented to the offender to the offender’s suspended sentence release date (SSRD). Or, if the offender has a previous parole revocation, programming compliance is monitored from the date of the most recent board action of “revoke” to the offender’s SSRD.
 - a. Programming non-compliance:
 1. Program termination
 2. Program refusal, including refusal to participate in a program assessment
 3. Failure to complete the program
 4. Discharge from the program for any disciplinary report related to program involvement and never completed the program
 5. While participating in the program, relinquished their treatment slot due to a disciplinary transfer and never completed the program
 6. Most recent program evaluation report is non-compliant
 - b. If an offender is found to be non-compliant with the programming requirement at a suspended sentence violation hearing and the board does not impose or partially imposes the suspended sentence, future compliance will be determined from the date of that hearing to the suspended sentence release date.
- C. An offender’s compliance with suspended sentence conditions may also be reviewed under the following circumstances:
 - a. If an offender is scheduled for a hearing to determine whether he/she is noncompliant with the elements of his/her Individual Program Directive pursuant to DOC Policy.
 - b. If an offender is noncompliant with any other condition of their suspended sentence, including court-ordered conditions.
 - c. If an offender is convicted of an in-system crime [felony committed while incarcerated].
 - d. At the request of a member of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Suspended Sentence Compliance Review:

- A. Parole Board administrative staff will review and monitor offenders for compliance with the conditions of their suspended sentences. Reviews may take place at any time prior to the offender’s suspended sentence release date.

Suspended Sentence Revocation:

- A. If the offender meets the eligibility criteria for being non-compliant as outlined above board staff will write a violation report and issue a warrant ahead of the offender’s suspended sentence release date.
- B. The offender will be served with the violation report, warrant, and scheduled for a dispositional meeting typically held prior to the offender’s suspended sentence release date (SSRD).

SECTION	SUBJECT	DOC POLICY	Page 4 of 4
Parole Board	Revocation of Suspended Sentence	8.1.A.15	Effective: 6 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6

- C. If the offender (with or without counsel) does not reach an agreement of resolution and sanction during the dispositional meeting process, the offender will be served a notice of hearing and scheduled for a suspended sentence violation hearing before the board.
- D. Following the suspended sentence violation hearing, the Parole Board may:
 - 1. Find the offender has violated the terms and conditions of their suspended sentence and revoke and impose their suspended sentence.
 - 2. Find the offender has violated the terms and conditions of their suspended sentence and may find that the offender satisfactorily proven mitigating circumstances which the Board finds persuasive, justifying a release to suspended sentence status.
 - 3. Find that the offender has not violated the terms and conditions of their suspended sentence and release to suspended sentence status.
 - 4. Take any additional actions and impose all other conditions as allowed by South Dakota law.
- E. If the offender's suspended sentence is revoked and imposed and the offender is eligible for parole, a discretionary parole date (next review date) for the offender will be set not more than two years from the date of revocation. If the offender is serving a not parole eligible (NPE) sentence, no discretionary parole date will be set.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

The Parole Board's administrative staff is responsible for the annual review and maintenance of this policy.

VI. AUTHORITY

SDCL § 23A-27-19
 SDCL § 23A-27-18.4
 SDCL § 23A-27-18.6
 SDCL § 24-15-19
 SDCL § 24-15A-37

VII. HISTORY

June 2026
 March 2025
 June 2023
 December 2021
 October 2020
 February 2017
 September 2016
 July 2015

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Suspended Sentence Notice

Distribution: Public

Attachment 1:**SUSPENDED SENTENCE NOTICE****Name:****DOC ID:**

I have been made aware that SDCL §§ 23A-27-18.4 and 23A-27-19 provide that persons whose sentences are suspended are under the supervision of the Board of Pardons and Paroles as provided in the statutes previously referenced. Also, I understand and agree that in the event I violate the conditions of my suspended sentences as imposed by the sentencing judge, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, or SDCL 23A-27-18.6, even if the violation is prior to my suspended sentence commencing, the Board has the authority to revoke the suspended portion and impose the entire sentence. The Board is charged with the responsibility for enforcing the conditions imposed by the sentencing judge and the Board retains jurisdiction to revoke the suspended portion of the sentence for violation of the terms of parole or the terms of the suspension.

In Consideration of Suspended Sentence being granted me, I agree to the following:

I will conform to the rules and program requirements of the Department of Corrections, maintain a good disciplinary record and satisfactorily participate in programs as assigned.

I have read, or have had read to me and fully understand, this condition of supervision. I acknowledge receipt and understanding of the rules I am expected to live by while in the custody of the Department of Corrections and that I am expected to satisfactorily participate in programs as assigned. I specifically acknowledge that I have been warned/advised that a violation of this notice can result in my suspended sentence being revoked prior to my release to serve such suspended sentence. I also understand that this notice applies to any future suspended penitentiary sentence I may receive during my current admission.

Source: 5 SDR 51, 5 SDR 53, effective January 4, 1979; 12 SDR 213, effective July 14, 1986; 24 SDR 44, effective October 14, 1997.

General Authority: SDCL 1-15-20.

Law Implemented: SDCL 24-15-19, 24-15A-37.

Witness Printed Name

Witness Signature

Date

Inmate Signature

Date