## Early Release for Federal Inmates: A Fact Sheet



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Early release from federal prison is a complex and often misunderstood topic. This fact sheet provides a comprehensive overview of the eligibility criteria, application process, and potential outcomes for federal inmates seeking early release.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for early release, a federal inmate must meet the following criteria:

- Have served at least 85% of their sentence
- Have a good conduct record in prison
- Not be a danger to the community
- Have a release plan in place

In addition, certain categories of inmates are not eligible for early release, including those convicted of violent crimes, sex crimes, or drug trafficking offenses.

#### **Application Process**

Inmates who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for early release by submitting a petition to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). The petition must include a detailed explanation of the inmate's reasons for seeking early release, as well as documentation supporting their claims.

The BOP will review the petition and make a decision based on the inmate's individual circumstances. The BOP may also conduct an interview with the inmate to assess their suitability for early release.

#### **Potential Outcomes**

If the BOP approves an inmate's petition for early release, the inmate may be released to a halfway house or other community-based program. The inmate will be required to follow strict rules and regulations while on early release, and may be subject to electronic monitoring or other forms of supervision.

If an inmate violates the terms of their early release, they may be returned to prison to serve the remainder of their sentence.

Early release from federal prison is a complex and challenging process, but it is possible for eligible inmates who meet the criteria and follow the application process. If you are a federal inmate who is interested in learning more about early release, please consult with your case manager or the BOP.

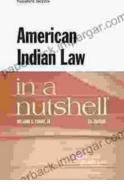
#### **Additional Resources**

- Bureau of Prisons website
- Prison Policy Initiative website
- Sentencing Project website



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