
ARE THERE ANY QUALIFICATIONS THAT THE EMPLOYER MUST MEET?

Yes, by Rhode Island law, employers, owners, supervisor, managers, or anyone in a supervisory position over an inmate must pass a criminal history check. All employers must have workers compensation or private insurance covering injury and must adhere to Rhode Island labor laws.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PARTICIPANTS' MONEY WHEN HE/SHE GETS PAID?

The participant's check is placed in his/her Inmate Account at the RIDOC and is subject to the following deductions:

- ◆ 30% of gross is taken for program fees.
- ◆ 15% of the remainder is taken out to pay any court cost and fines.
- ◆ 25% of the remainder is taken out to go to the participant's frozen savings account for use upon release from custody. This will stop after the account reaches \$1,000.
- ◆ Participants are allotted between \$35 and \$50 expense money each week for transportation cost or lunches. (Brown bag lunch will be provided for those participants who wish it.)
- ◆ Child support money will be paid when owed. This money may be garnished.

HOW SHOULD PROBLEMS BE HANDLED BY THE EMPLOYER?

If an inmate is injured on the job, the employer should contact the Work Release Supervisor's Office. If no one can be reached, contact can be made through the Minimum Security front desk. Contact telephone numbers will be provided to all Work Release employers. If the injury is of a serious nature, the inmate should be taken to the nearest medical center immediately.

If there is discipline problem with the inmate, the employer should contact the facility immediately. The first point of contact should always be the Work Release Supervisor. If he cannot be reached, the front desk should be contacted.

Any and all problems encountered with inmates will be handled discreetly between the employer and the facility. Work Release inmates should not be informed of employer phone calls to the facility concerning problems.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK BEST?

The program works best when there is open and ongoing communication between the employer and the facility. It normally takes about a week for a good system to be established. During this time, the employee becomes familiar with the bus schedules to and from work and the employer has a chance to evaluate the inmate's skill level. The program also works best when the inmate is treated fairly and like any other employee at the work location.



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

WORK RELEASE PROGRAM



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Men's Minimum/Work Release

WHAT IS THE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM?

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Work Release Program is designed to help inmates

through the rehabilitative process by providing selected offenders the opportunity to pursue vocational and educational endeavors in the community. Inmates in the program return to the prison each night and are housed in a special unit with other Work Release inmates. While at the prison, they are subject to the same rules and regulations as other inmates, but the experience of leaving the prison to work in an off-site setting and earning a fair wage is considered to be excellent preparation for the eventual reentry to the home community upon release.



Women's Minimum/Work Release

Men and women are both eligible for the program.

In order to be eligible, an inmate must:

- ◆ Have completed at least one sixth (1/6) of his or her sentence
- ◆ Have been classified to and resided in Minimum Security one month for each year that he/she has been sentenced
- ◆ Be within two years of discharge
- ◆ Have appeared before the Work Release Board and received its recommendation. (Criminal and prison history, program participation, and parole status are all considered in the board's recommendation.)
- ◆ Have been approved by the Corrections Director and/or his Designee for the Work Release Program.

Prior to beginning a Work Release placement, the Department of Corrections notifies the offender's victim(s), the arresting police department, and the residential police department of the inmate's pending placement into the community.



Inmates who have a **No Contact Order (NCO)** or are serving on **domestic charges** will be disqualified.

Inmates can also be **court ordered** to the Work Release Program. R.I. law (R.I.G.L.12-19-2) has provisions for judges to send first-time offenders to the Work Release Program.

Inmates can be sent to the Work Release Program through the **R.I. Family Court** for failure to pay child support. (R.I.G.L. 8-10-38.1)

Federal inmates can also be placed in Work Release. Such inmates must have less than 10% of their sentence remaining and have indicated that Rhode Island was, is, and definitely will be their state of residence upon release.

All inmates are evaluated prior to placement into the program and sign contracts concerning all rules and regulations prior to job placement.

WHERE ARE WORK RELEASE INMATES ELIGIBLE TO WORK?

There are a few restrictions regarding the type of job a Work Release Program participant can accept. These include:

- ◆ A Work Release inmate cannot work as a tele-marketer.
- ◆ A Work Release inmate cannot work in a position with Internet access or access to individuals' personal information.
- ◆ A Work Release inmate cannot work with or for family members or anyone who has been on his/her visiting list.
- ◆ A Work Release inmate cannot work for companies that store or dispense any drug, medicine or narcotic.
- ◆ A Work Release inmate cannot work for out-of-state companies or Rhode Island companies whose job sites are out of state.
- ◆ Men and women on Work Release cannot work at the same site.
- ◆ A Work Release inmate cannot work on job sites located in a prison facility.



HOW DO PARTICIPANTS GET TO AND FROM WORK?



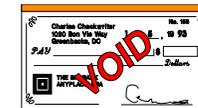
Participants may utilize public transportation (bus) or the employer may make arrangements for transportation. The specific means of transportation is dependent on the job location and work schedule.

WHAT TIMES CAN WORK RELEASE INMATES WORK?



Program Participants can work any shift as long as appropriate transportation arrangements are made.

HOW MUCH DO WORK RELEASE INMATES EARN?



There are no set limitations for pay. The general rule is that compensation should be commensurate with the duties and responsibilities associated with the position.

CAN I HIRE A PARTICIPANT FOR A SHORT-TERM POSITION?

Short-term employment (a position lasting less than three months) is discouraged for a variety of reasons including the excessive amount of paperwork required. Exceptions can be made in extraordinary situations.