

# Release on Temporary Licence

Release on temporary licence means being able to leave the prison for a short time.

For example you might be granted a release on temporary licence

- ✓ because a parent or partner is seriously ill
- ✓ to help you settle back into the community when you finish your sentence

Release on temporary licence is usually shortened to ROTL.

- ✗ Not everyone gets ROTL.

There is more information about it in **Prison Service Order 6300**.

Not everyone can get ROTL. Prisoners who can **not** leave on a temporary licence are

- Category A or on the escape list.
- Unconvicted and convicted but with no sentence yet.
- Subject to extradition proceedings – wanted by another country because they may have committed an offence there.
- Sentenced, but on remand on further charges or waiting to be sentenced for other convictions.
- Category B prisoners can not get a resettlement day or overnight release but may be allowed to leave if a close family member is dying.
- If you are serving a sentence and then get another on top for not paying a confiscation order, you can only apply for ROTL during this later bit, not on your original sentence.
- Prisoners serving a life sentence will usually only be released on a temporary licence if they are in open or semi-open prisons.
- Prisoners serving a life sentence in closed conditions will be able to be released on temporary licence if they could be living in open or semi-open prisons but can not be moved because of medical reasons.

## **If the governor thinks you are safe to go out of the prison there are 4 main types of licence**

### **Special purposes licence**

This is for a few hours and is given for

- visits to dying relatives who are close family members
- going to funerals of close family members
- marriage or religious services
- medical treatment – for as long as the hospital appointment or treatment is for
- going to court, tribunal or an inquiry.

### **Resettlement day release licence**

This is for

- taking part in community service projects or other things you have to do outside prison as part of your sentence to get ready for release
- keeping in touch with your family
- training or education courses about life and work skills.

### **Resettlement overnight release licences**

This is for similar things to the day release, but also for you to spend time at the place you will be living once you are released from prison.

### **Childcare resettlement licence**

This is for certain prisoners who are the only parent or carer for a child under 16. This leave can be taken once every 2 months – so 6 times a year.

## End of custody licence scheme (also called ECL) This is a temporary scheme which started in 2007.

- ✓ This is for all prisoners who are suitable and have sentences of 4 weeks or more, but less than 4 years.
- ✓ The end of custody licence scheme means you can be released up to 18 days before your automatic release date.
  - ✗ Some people can not have ECL.

There is more information in **Prison Service Instruction 42/2007**. This will be in the prison library.

If you are released under the ECL scheme you must follow the rules of your sentence. You will be recalled to prison if you break the conditions (rules) of the licence.

You may get some help with money if you are released under the scheme. You can not claim benefits until your original release date.

For example, if you were released under the scheme on March 1st, but your sentence was due to end on March 18th, you could not claim benefits until March 18th.

Prisoners who **can not** be released under ECL

- Registered sex offenders.
- Prisoners serving a sentence for serious violence.
- Prisoners who have escaped from custody before.
- Prisoners who have broken any of the other temporary release conditions before.

## **More about prisoners who can not be released under ECL**

- Prisoners who do not have a place to live sorted out.
- Prisoners who will be deported at the end of their sentence.
- Prisoners who are to be extradited.
- Prisoners on remand for more charges or waiting to be sentenced for something else.
- Prisoners who have been recalled back to prison from a home detention curfew or other licence.
- Prisoners on a treatment programme that they should follow when they are released, unless your offender manager can arrange it for another suitable time.