

“Perfect” Probation?

Taken from *Improving Parole Release in America* article by Rhine, Petersilia, and Reitz (2015).

- Selective Use of Supervision
 - Placement on supervision should be reserved mainly for:
 - those who present higher risks of reoffending
 - those incarcerated for serious, violent, and/or predatory sexual crimes, regardless of risk
 - Low-risk offenders should be given the choice of opting in or out of supervision
- Conditions of Supervision
 - As few in number as necessary
 - Tailored to the specific needs and risks associated with the offender
 - Conditions and resources should be concentrated for each person on the first few months after release (front-loaded when risk and need are highest)
 - Supervision agents should have greater authority to modify conditions to facilitate offender motivation.
 - Supervision fees should be abolished or severely limited (sliding scale fee alternative)
- Length of Supervision Term
 - Length of supervision should be decoupled from the term of imprisonment.
 - Set maximum supervision terms to be no more than
 - 5 years for higher risk levels, including those convicted of serious, violent and/or predatory sexual crimes.
 - 12 months for lower risk levels
 - Provide opportunity to earn early discharge
 - Courts should make frequent use of presumptive early termination