



## 2025 AMENDMENTS IN BRIEF

In April 2025, the U.S. Sentencing Commission approved amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines. For a more detailed discussion of the policy determinations made by the Commission, please refer to the *Reason for Amendment* in the “Reader-Friendly” and Official Text (link in QR code).

### 2025 Amendment

## Supervised Release

This amendment revises **Chapters Five and Seven** to **provide courts with greater discretion under the guidelines** to impose **individualized terms and conditions** of supervised release and respond to supervised release **violations**.

The amendment **encourages courts to conduct an individualized assessment for all supervised release decisions**, including imposition, term length, selecting and modifying appropriate conditions, and responding to non-compliance. The individualized assessment incorporates the factors courts are instructed to consider under 18 U.S.C. § 3583(c) and does not require use of a new actuarial tool or assessment (e.g., the Post-Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA)). The amendment **eliminates certain requirements, such as mandatory imposition if a term of imprisonment of longer than one year is imposed**.

The amendment also **emphasizes the different purposes of probation and supervised release** and provides guidance as to appropriate use of modification and early termination.

### THE ISSUE

## Adopting an Individualized Approach to Supervision

In the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, the Commission drafted its guidance relating to probation and supervised release in Chapters Five and Seven of the *Guidelines Manual*.

Many of those provisions have not changed since their promulgation more than 30 years ago, and stakeholders have identified the need for more flexible, individualized approaches to imposing supervised release terms and conditions, and fashioning responses to violations.

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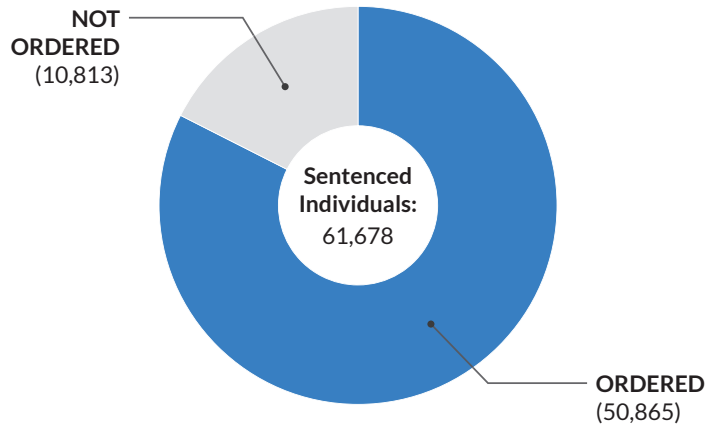
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Amendment.



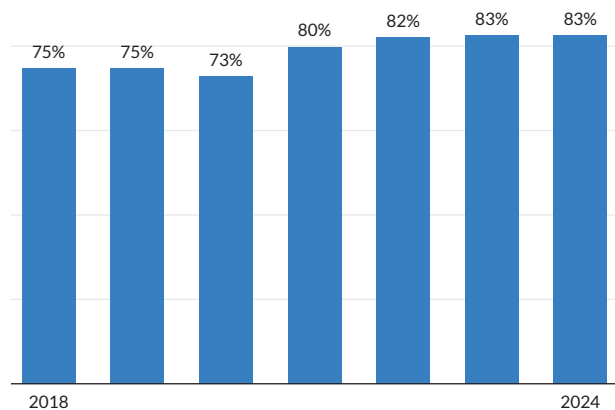
## FACTS & FIGURES

- Of the 61,678 individuals sentenced in fiscal year 2024, a total of 50,865 individuals (83%) were sentenced to some term of supervised release.
- Individuals were sentenced to an average of 47 months of supervised release after serving their prison terms; however the length of supervised release varied substantially by crime type (from a high of 234 months for sexual abuse offenses to a low of 12 months for drug possession offenses).
- Since fiscal year 2018, the rate of imposition of supervised release has increased from 75% to 83% of all sentenced individuals.

### SUPERVISED RELEASE IN FY 2024



### SUPERVISED RELEASE OVER TIME



## TIMELINE



### 2020 Research Report

In July 2020, the Commission published findings from a study of approximately 108,000 violation hearings that occurred between 2013 and 2017. The report examined the prevalence, types, and locations of federal supervision violations as well as the characteristics of more than 82,000 individuals who violated their terms of supervision.



### 2024 Roundtable

In November 2024, the Commission held a roundtable on supervised release attended by judges, retired federal probation officers, providers of reentry services, academics, federal probation, government and defense community representatives, and a reentry program graduate. In January 2025, the Commission published for public comment a proposed Supervised Release amendment.



### 2025 Testimony & Comment

Experts and stakeholders provided testimony at a two-day public hearing and submitted extensive public comment on the proposed amendment. A chief concern raised by commenters was the changes in an individual's circumstances, risk level, or available community resources between the time of original sentencing and, oftentimes, years later when a defendant begins their term of supervised release.



### 2025 Amendment

The Commission's focus on an individualized assessment aims to "assure that [individuals] who will need post-release supervision will receive it" while "prevent[ing] probation system resources from being wasted on supervisory services for releasees who do not need them." See S. Rep. No. 225, 98th Cong., 1st Sess. 54 (1983).