

**Arkansas Department of
Community Correction**



*"Service with Integrity
& Excellence"*

**Two Union National Plaza Building
105 West Capitol, 2nd Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-5731
(501) 682-9510 Fax: (501) 682-9538**

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

MIKE BEEBE
Governor



JOHN FELTS
Chairman

**105 WEST CAPITOL - SUITE 500
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
TELEPHONE: (501) 682-3850
FAX: (501) 682-3880**

Memo

Arkansas Sheriffs
Chiefs of Police
August 14, 2013

Dear Sheriff and/or Chief:

On August 2, we emailed and/or mailed the attached letter requesting - as a result of Parole Board and Board of Correction Policy - that your facilities "hold" any parolee arrested for any felony or sexual offense until a Revocation Hearing has been conducted. The Department of Community Correction has, and will, continue to make every effort to serve Parole Board Warrants to offenders in your custody at the earliest possible date, but we ask your assistance in making sure we have the opportunity to do so before any of these offenders are released from your custody on bond or otherwise.

We are implementing additional procedures to enter parole holds through ACIC upon booking notification for felony charges and sexual offenses in addition to abscond notices and will follow up as soon as possible with written warrants.

Phone numbers for the Supervising Officer and Managers are listed in ACIC/NCIC to facilitate a response to your staff at any time day or night. We are looking at ways to automate the process that would prevent anyone that is a threat to public safety from being released, and welcome any feedback in this regard.

We also want to advise you that Act 1029 of 2013 (see enclosed copy) goes into effect August 16, 2013 and further mandates the Parole Board to issue a warrant for the arrest of a parolee charged with a felony involving violence or a felony requiring registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1997. The Department of Community Correction also will assist the Parole Board in providing the information necessary to issue this warrant. The law requires that a parolee arrested under this warrant be detained pending a mandatory parole revocation hearing. Therefore, again we seek your assistance in making sure these offenders are held

pending a revocation hearing. After warrants are issued, the Parole Board will schedule hearings at the earliest possible date and we will assist you in any way possible.

Again, we thank you for your help in promoting public safety, and we pledge to work with you to improve the system.

Sincerely,

Sheila Sharp, Interim Director
Department of Community Correction
(501) 682-9566

John Felts, Chairman
Arkansas Parole Board
(501) 682-3850

cc: Jenny Wilkinson
DCC Area Managers
Ronnie Baldwin, Sheriff's Association
Mark Whitmore, Association of Arkansas Counties
Jay Winters, Arkansas Crime Information Center

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July 31, 2013

Arkansas Sheriffs
Chiefs of Police

Dear Sheriff and/or Chief:

As you may be aware, the Department of Community Correction (DCC) and the Arkansas Parole Board are currently taking measures to decrease the number of absconders within our local communities. Absconders by DCC definition are parolees or probationers that are under our supervision who are avoiding supervision by failing to report to their parole/probation officer(s) as directed. In order to address this problem, we are seeking your continued assistance in directing these offenders, who are not being detained for misdemeanors, felonious offenses, and/or other holds, to the local parole/probation office within the area of the contact. Furthermore, we ask that the supervising officer be contacted and advised of any situation that may affect the supervision of an offender. As you know, officer contact information is included on the ACIC/NCIC website.

Also, we request you hold all parolees that commit a felony and/or sexual offense, including misdemeanor sexual offense, until such time we can bring them before a parole hearing officer. We greatly understand your concern(s) regarding the cost(s) and overcrowding of your jails as a result of this process and assure you that we are working tirelessly to improve and expedite our parole revocation process.

I'm confident that with our collective efforts we can achieve a common goal of public safety. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance to you or your office. Should you have questions or want to discuss this or other issues to make our criminal justice system operate more efficiently, please call on us at the contact numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

Sheila Sharp, Interim Director
Department of Community Correction
(501) 682-9566

John Felts, Chairman
Arkansas Parole Board
(501) 682-3850

cc: **Ronnie Baldwin, Director, Arkansas Sheriffs' Association**
Jay Winters, Director, Arkansas Crime Information Center
Benny Magness, Chairman, Arkansas Board of Corrections
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, DCC Parole and Probation Division

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1029 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: S2/19/13 S3/7/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 258

5 By: Senator D. Sanders
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT REQUIRING THE PAROLE BOARD TO ISSUE A WARRANT
9 FOR THE ARREST OF A PAROLEE WHO HAS COMMITTED A
10 VIOLENT OR SEXUAL FELONY WHILE ON PAROLE; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

14 REQUIRING THE PAROLE BOARD TO ISSUE A
15 WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF A PAROLEE WHO
16 HAS COMMITTED A VIOLENT OR SEXUAL FELONY
17 WHILE ON PAROLE.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-93-705(a)(1), concerning a parole
24 revocation hearing procedure, is amended to read as follows:

25 *(a)(1)(A)(i) At any time during a parolee's release on parole, the*
26 *Parole Board may issue a warrant for the arrest of the parolee for violation*
27 *of any conditions of parole or may issue a notice to appear to answer a*
28 *charge of a violation.*

29 (ii) The Department of Community Correction shall provide the information
30 necessary for the Parole Board to issue a warrant under subdivision (a)(1)(A)
31 of this section.

32 (B)(i) The Parole Board shall issue a warrant for the
33 arrest of a parolee if the board determines that the parolee has been charged
34 with a felony involving violence, as defined under § 5-4-501(d)(2), or a
35 felony requiring registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act of
36 1997, § 12-12-901 et seq.



1 (ii) The Department of Community Correction shall
2 provide the information necessary for the Parole Board to issue a warrant
3 under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section.

4 (iii) A parolee arrested on a warrant issued under
5 subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be detained pending a
6 mandatory parole revocation hearing.

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8 /s/D. Sanders

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11 APPROVED: 04/10/2013
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