

Temporary Absence Program



What is the Temporary Absence Program?

It is a program that allows selected inmates to access community-based programming and employment. It also allows the temporary release of inmates from custody to meet medical, administrative or humanitarian goals. Through this program, the Department of Public Safety facilitates the rehabilitation of inmates and their re-integration into the community as law-abiding citizens. Inmates on remand are not eligible for release under the Temporary Absence Program. The legal authority to release an offender for a temporary absence is sanctioned by the Prisons and Reformatories Act.

Is the safety of the public at risk when releasing prisoners?

The Department of Public Safety takes every precaution to ensure public order and community safety before any absence is granted. Risk to re-offend, overall institutional conduct, availability of an adequate release plan, satisfactory community assessments, and, a case management plan outlining treatment, rehabilitative programs and employment, are all carefully reviewed by a classification committee, prior to any release being approved. The benefit of the release and its potential impact on victim(s) is also considered.



The institutional record of an inmate will be carefully reviewed before granting Temporary Absence

When an inmate is released, is he/she escorted?

It depends on the classification received. A temporary absence committee may authorize the temporary release of a prisoner with or without escort, depending on the purpose of the release and depending on the institutional record of the inmate.

What is the duration of a temporary absence?

It varies, but the maximum number of days is fixed at 60 and is subject to review by a designated authority. The temporary absence for medical reasons is set for an unlimited period. A temporary absence may be revoked, by the designated authority, for a number of reasons including violation of rules attached as a condition of the program, or for disciplinary reasons.

TEMPORARY ABSENCE

There are four kinds of temporary absence in the province:

- **One day:** Permits the absence of an inmate for less than 24 hours.
- **Daily:** The inmate must return to his/her correctional institution each day.
- **Full:** The inmate does not have to return to the institution until the completion of the temporary absence or its revocation.
- **Unlimited/medical:** An inmate may be released for an undetermined time for medical reasons.

Temporary Absence does not mean total liberty for the inmate.

A Temporary Absence may be granted for educational purposes



For further information, please contact the following Public Safety Regional Offices:
Fredericton, 453-2367
Moncton, 856-2313
Saint John, 658-2495
Edmundston, 735-2030
Bathurst, 547-2159