

# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## GOOD CONDUCT POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

### **February 1, 1978 - Governor James R. Thompson**

- With the implementation of determinate sentencing, day-for-day good conduct credits were applied so that one day of good conduct credit would be awarded for each day an inmate serves his or her sentence of imprisonment. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3)(a)(2.1)*
- Meritorious Good Time (MGT) was enacted, in which the Corrections Director may award up to 90 days good conduct credit "for meritorious service in specific instances as the Director deems proper." These good conduct credits replaced statutory and compensatory credits allowed under the previous (indeterminate) sentencing structure. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3)(a)(3)*

### **June 6, 1980 - Governor James R. Thompson**

- "Early release" was implemented as the prison population continued to exceed rated capacity, allowing eligible inmates to receive multiple 90 day MGT awards. In June 1981 "early release" was termed "forced release" and in September 1982 the criteria for forced release was expanded.

### **July 13, 1983 - Governor James R. Thompson**

- Forced release was then terminated when the Illinois State Supreme Court ruled that only 90 days of MGT could be awarded for any one incarceration (see *Lane v. Sklodowski*, 1983).

### **July 13, 1990 - Governor James R. Thompson**

- Supplemental Meritorious Good Time (SMGT) was implemented, where inmates could be awarded up to 180 days of good conduct credit for meritorious service. Certain inmates convicted of more serious offenses are only eligible for 90 days of credit. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3)(a)(3)*

### **September 10, 1990 - Governor James R. Thompson**

- Educational Good Conduct Credits were granted for completion of educational programs at a rate of 0.25/day. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3)(a)(4)*

### **August 11, 1993 - Governor Jim Edgar**

- Earned Good Conduct Credit (EGCC) was created for satisfactory completion of educational, vocational, substance abuse treatment, and correctional industries programs. The credit was awarded at a rate of 0.5/day. Certain inmates convicted of more serious offenses and repeat felony offenders were ineligible.

### **December 22, 1994 - Governor Jim Edgar**

- The Illinois Supreme Court ruled in *Barger v. Peters* that inmates who committed their crimes during the period that the old EGCC law was in effect (September 10, 1990 to August 11, 1993) continued to remain eligible for EGCC for educational programs at the rate of 0.25/day.

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### **January 1995 - Governor Jim Edgar**

- The Illinois Supreme Court in *People v. Jameson* stated that inmates sentenced as Class X (highest non-murder level) offenders due to their criminal history, but convicted of Class 1 or 2 (next lower levels) offenses, should still be treated as Class 1 or 2 felons in regard to EGCC awards.

### **June 19, 1998 – Governor Jim Edgar**

- Truth-in-Sentencing laws were enacted. Inmates serving a term of imprisonment for first degree murder or terrorism receive no good conduct credit and serve the entire sentence imposed by the court; inmates sentenced to prison for selected offenses receive no more than 4.5 days of good conduct credit for each month of their sentence; and inmates sentenced to prison for selected drug offenses receive no more than 7.5 days of good conduct credit for each month of their sentence. Inmates convicted of any truth-in-sentencing offense committed on or after June 19, 1998 are ineligible to receive additional good conduct credits. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2)-(2.5)*

### **December, 2001 – Governor George Ryan**

- The Third and Fourth District Appellate Courts, in *Howell v. Snyder* and *Guzzo v. Snyder*, determined that the IDOC could not refuse offender good time credit based on an unwritten policy of excluding offenders with domestic battery arrests, convictions or with orders of protections. This set a standard whereby MGT/SMGT may be awarded based only on offender conduct during incarceration.

### **September 1, 2003 - Governor Rod Blagojevich**

- Inmates refusing to be placed on the substance abuse waiting list can be denied EGCC if the inmate has a court sentencing order that recommends substance abuse treatment. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(4.5)*

### **July 7, 2005 - Governor Rod Blagojevich**

- Inmates can be awarded an additional 60 days of good conduct credit for passing the high school level Test of General Educational Development (GED). *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(4.1)*

### **June 1, 2008 - Governor Rod Blagojevich**

- Inmates convicted of a sex offense could receive no good conduct credit unless they either have successfully completed or are participating in sex offender treatment. *730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(4.6)*

*Source: Illinois Department of Corrections*

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