

Ready to Ask for Early Termination?

A Readiness Checklist for Federal Supervised Release

Early termination is exactly what it sounds like. It is the court ending your supervised release before the full term runs out.

Under federal law (18 U.S.C. Section 3583(e)(1)), once you have completed at least one year of supervised release, the judge who sentenced you can terminate the term if your conduct warrants it and ending supervision serves the interest of justice. There is no form that triggers an automatic review. You have to ask, and the record you have built is what the judge looks at.

This checklist helps you take an honest look at that record before you ask. Check each box you can honestly check today. Do not guess, and do not round up. The judge will see the real file.

The readiness checklist

- ☐ I have completed at least one year of supervised release.
- ☐ I have had no new arrests and no new charges since my release.
- ☐ I have passed my drug tests, with no missed or failed test I cannot explain.
- ☐ I have completed the conditions the court ordered, or I am current on every one that is still open.
- ☐ I finished any treatment or program the court ordered, or I am enrolled and attending as required.
- ☐ I am working steadily, or I can document a real effort to find work, like applications, interviews, or training.
- ☐ My housing is stable, and my probation officer knows where I live.
- ☐ I am current on restitution, fines, and any payment schedule the court set.
- ☐ My relationship with my probation officer is in good standing. I report as directed, I am honest, and there are no open violation issues.
- ☐ I have gathered my paperwork: the judgment, my conditions, completion certificates, pay records, and anything else that shows my progress.

How did you do? If you checked most of these boxes, you have the kind of record judges look for, and it may be time to prepare your request. If you checked only a few, that is not a dead end. It is a map.

Not there yet? Build the record.

An unchecked box is not a failure. It is the next thing to work on. Judges deny early termination most often because the request came before the record was ready, not because the person could never qualify.

Start with the boxes you could not check. Finish the program. Get current on payments, even small ones made on schedule. Keep every test clean and every report on time. And save the proof as you go: certificates, pay stubs, letters, receipts. Six steady months can change how a file reads. When the boxes start checking themselves, you are ready to ask.

Your next steps

Go deeper. Our Early Termination guides walk through who qualifies, what judges look for, and how to build the request step by step. Guide \$29, Toolkit \$69, Complete Bundle \$79, at prosehelpllc.com/book-shop.

Want a second set of eyes? We offer a free consultation. We will tell you honestly what you need before you pay anything. Reach out through the contact page at prosehelpllc.com.

Stay in the loop. Getting this checklist also put you on the Pro Se Help newsletter list. Every other Sunday we break down federal court news in plain language, including rulings on early release.

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