The Board reviews a set of guidelines to assist with making parole decisions. These provide a structure to use when reviewing cases. Guidelines are not, in themselves, dispositive of the Boards's decisions. They provide a framework to facilitate reasonable consistency in paroling decisions. These items that are considered by the Board when making decisions include the following:

1) The score/risk level calculated on a validated risk assessment tool such as the Montana Offender Reentry and Risk Assessment (MORRA) or other specialized assessments.
2) Risk reduction programming and treatment completion.
3) Institutional Conduct (See the Institutional Infractions list elsewhere in this section of the website).
4) The nature and severity of the offense.

It should be noted that although the circumstances of the underlying offense cannot be changed, the completed programming and institutional conduct are both dynamic factors that the offender can affect going forward. Those who are interested in paroling should make every effort to maintain clear conduct and complete recommended treatment. Per the Administrative Rules of Montana, offenders in community-based programs must have at least 90 days free of major rule violations and those in secure facilities must have at least 120 days clear conduct prior to paroling unless a Board hearing panel orders otherwise.