

PRISM Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is a sanction agreement required every time I discuss a behavior or potential violation with an offender?** *No, a sanction agreement is to be used when you want to impose a formal sanctioning of the offender's behavior. This does not prohibit you from discussing a problematic behavior with an offender if the intent is to advise the offender of the possible consequences of continuing a specific behavior. (Puts offender on "notice") Once this has been done, you will address the behavior more formally if the behavior continues with a verbal reprimand or other appropriate sanction which would require a sanction agreement .*

2. **How does out of state travel work as a sanction and as a positive reinforcement?**
 - **Restricting out of state travel** *a response that can be imposed in response to an undesirable behavior. A Sanction Agreement will be completed and the offender should be made aware of how long their ability to travel out of state is being restricted. (Example: Jo Offender was granted a travel permit to go to the water park in Salt Lake City from June 10-12. On June 13th, the supervising Agent attempts a home visit and was advised by Jo's parents that he had not yet returned from Utah and was expected back that evening. The Agent meets with Jo in the officer on June 14th and discusses the undesirable behavior of failing to comply with his travel permit, the Agent advises Jo why this behavior is problematic and the Agent and Jo complete the Sanction Agreement Process by agreeing that Jo's out of state travel will be restricted for a period of 30 days as the Agent is aware Jo has season tickets to the water park in Utah.)*

 - **Approving out of state travel** *is a response that can be used as a positive reinforcement or incentive when the offender exhibits desirable behavior or completes a case plan goal. (Example: Jane Offender has expressed a desire to take her children to the Denver Zoo once she pays off her court ordered restitution – the supervising Agent indicates this on the case plan as a goal. When the Agent verifies the goal is completed, the Agent issues the travel permit.)*

3. **What recourse do I have if an offender refuses to participate in a sanction agreement?** *The Agent should utilize cognitive and motivational interviewing skills in attempt to determine what the offender's resistance is to the sanctioning process and make adjustments if possible. (Does the offender need more time to think about the proposed sanction, would another sanction be as effective and be met with less resistance, etc?) The benefits and consequences of participating in the sanction process should be made clear to the offender and if there is still a resistance to participating, the Agent should staff the case with their District Supervisor to determine the most appropriate*

response which may be a referral to the Court if the offender is refusing to participate in their supervision.

4. **Is it okay to have the sanction agreement pre-typed prior to meeting with the offender to sign it?** *No, the sanction agreement process as well as the document is to be a collaborative effort with the offender and should be completed with them. The document can be typed or handwritten and should be placed in the file as well as a copy given to the offender.*
5. **How does the use of PRISM affect offenders supervised under the Interstate Compact?** *PRISM should be utilized with offenders who are being supervised within the boundaries of the State and is not intended to be used for Wyoming offender's being supervised in another state. Interstate Compact offenders supervised by our Department are required to sign the Wyoming P&P Agreement which now includes the sanctioning language.*
6. **Can I use more than one sanction in response to an undesirable behavior?** *Yes, there is nothing by policy that mandates only one response to a violation behavior. You must simply be able to articulate why a particular response or responses were chosen and how that will assist the offender with correcting the presenting behavior.*
7. **Do I need to continue to fill out a violation report for ISP, Qualified Offenders and Parole Sanction Hearings since I am now required to complete a staffing report?** *No, you are only required to fill out a Staffing Report for all sanction hearings including Parole Sanction Hearings. The Board of Parole has approved the use of the Staffing Report in lieu of the Violation Report.*
8. **If the court order specifies that I can impose a curfew at my discretion as part of the supervision strategy do I have to complete a staffing report and sanction agreement?** *If the imposition of the curfew was in response to a specific, undesirable behavior, a sanction agreement must be completed as this would be considered a sanction response. If the decision to impose a curfew per the court order is made outside of these parameters, then a sanction agreement would not be necessary.*
9. **If I utilize responses from PRISM as part of a case management strategy is that considered to be a sanction?** *You may use many of the strategies from PRISM in the supervision of offenders in instances where you are not considering the use to be in response to a specific undesirable behavior which would not constitute a "sanction." (Example: A supervising Agent has attempted multiple home visits in the last month on John Offender and has failed to make contact with him. John's wife states that he hangs out with his friends every night into the early morning hours and this is causing difficulties in many areas of John's life including he is unable to get up on time in the mornings and has been late for work several times. He has been warned that if this behavior continues he may lose his job which affects John's wife and children as he is*

the sole financial support for his family. The supervising agent is concerned that John has made himself unavailable for supervision (home visits) and fears he is on a path that may result in a violation of probation. The supervising Agent discusses this with the supervisor and it is agreed that John will be required to be home by 9pm for a period of two weeks so that the supervising Agent can conduct a home visit and provide other needed supervision services. The Agent discusses the being home earlier in the evenings with John and John is able to provide several benefits to being home in the evenings and agrees that he putting himself at risk for more serious behaviors. If John violates the 9pm curfew, then a formal sanction response would be required since this would constitute a violation of the agent's directive)

10. **How does the implementation of PRISM affect Wyoming Parolees?** *You will review all information in the PRISM Discussion Guide with Parolees and answer any relevant questions. They are **not required to sign the new P& P agreement**, however the Board of Parole has reviewed the PRISM and policy and is supportive of its use with offenders under their authority.*
11. **Prior to PRISM, I was able to impose a curfew, regress levels and do other sanction responses listed in the shaded area of PRISM as part of my case management of ISP offenders, am I to follow the PRISM policy or ISP policy in determining what steps are to be taken?** *There are efforts underway at updating and revising the ISP program as a whole. These revisions will be released after May 1, 2010. ISP agents should refer to the PRISM and the Encouraging Desired Behaviors and Responding to Violations policy for all sanction responses beginning March 1, 2010 and **not** the ISP Manual.*
12. **If enhancement to ISP is the sanction chosen in response to a violation behavior and the offender incurs violations within the program, is that considered to be a failed sanction attempt and can the original violation be used in future revocation proceedings?** *No, violations of the ISP program rules will be addressed as part of the ISP program. If ISP sanctions are ineffective and the offender subsequently FAILS to COMPLETE the ISP program, then the original violation was not addressed successfully and can be used in future revocation proceedings or the allegation will state the offender "failed to complete the ISP program as ordered/directed...etc."*