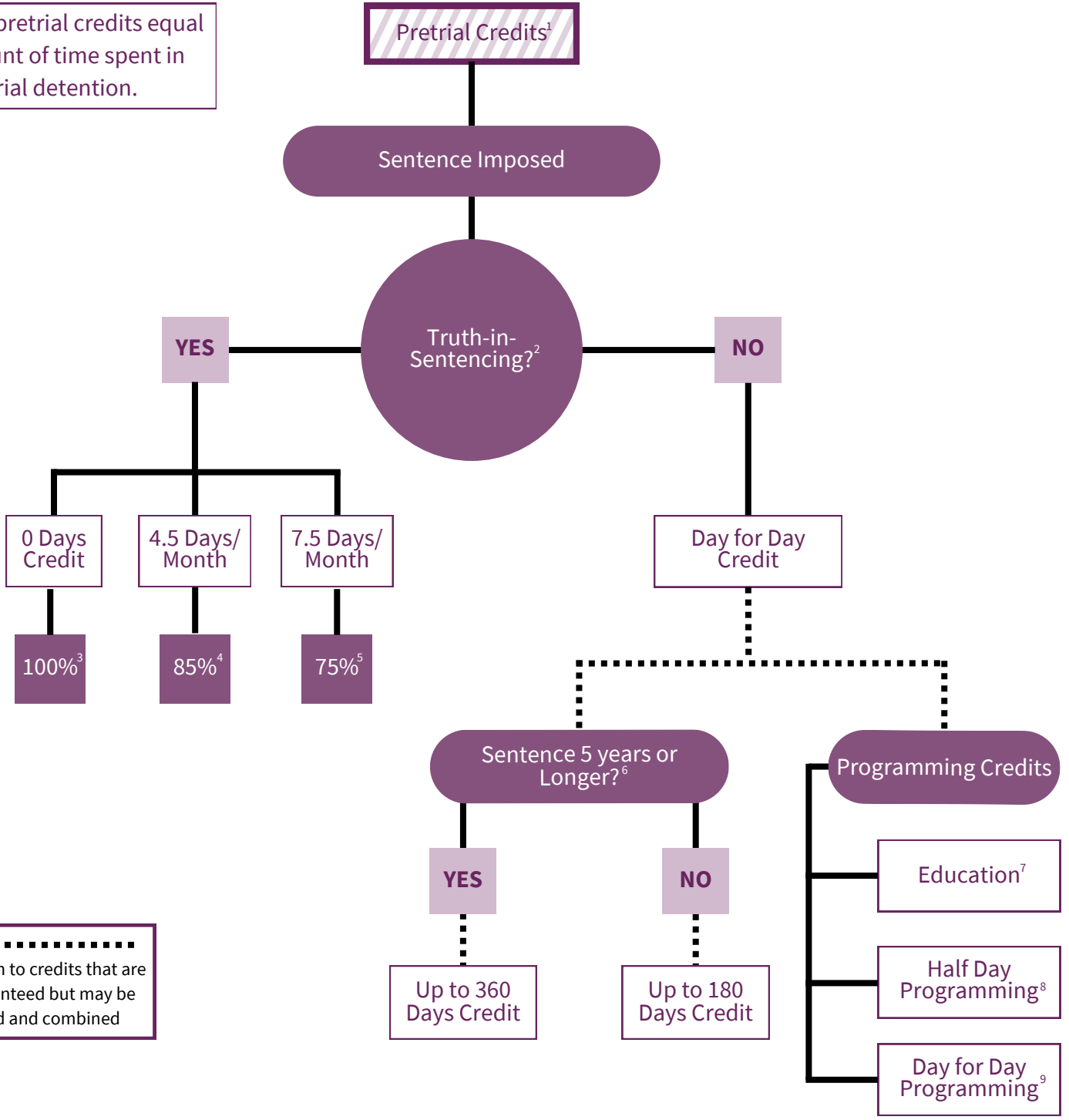


Sentence Credits 101

Illinois provides different opportunities for people incarcerated to earn credits to reduce the amount of time they have to serve in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC).

Generally, pretrial credits equal the amount of time spent in pretrial detention.



..... Shows path to credits that are not guaranteed but may be awarded and combined

1: People earn pretrial credits toward their sentence for each day they are held in jail custody or on home detention prior to their incarceration for their case ([730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-100\(b\)](#)). The courts may grant people one day credit for each day they spend on GPS or electronic monitoring without home confinement ([725 ILCS 5/110-5\(h\)](#)). Calculation of these credits shall be done by the trial court at sentencing.

Trial court shall give someone credit for programming completed in pretrial detention ([730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-100\(c-5\)](#)). Eligible Programming included successful completion of a full-time, 60-day or longer substance abuse program, educational program, behavior modification program, life skills course, or re-entry planning provided by the county. Credits shall be calculated by the court at the rate established in 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3.

IDOC can grant credits for educational achievements while in pretrial custody. Allowed credits are 90 days for high school equivalency, 120 days for associate's, and 180 days for a bachelor's, master's, or professional degree. ([730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(4.1\)](#))

2: Truth-in-Sentencing (TIS), passed in 1998, limits the number of credits a person can earn toward their sentence. Credit limitations are 0 days per month, 4.5 days per month, and 7.5 days per month. TIS is often referred to by the percent of the sentence a person is required to serve, 0 days (100%) , 4.5 days (85%), and 7.5 (75%). TIS credit restrictions are provided in 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2)(i)-(vii). ([730 ILCS 5/3-6-3](#))

3: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)](#) provides that first-degree murder and terrorism are not eligible for sentence credits, meaning people convicted of these crimes spend 100% of their sentence in IDOC.

[730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(2.2\)](#) provides that a person serving natural life is not eligible to receive any sentence credits.

4: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(2\)\(ii\)-\(iv\)](#), [\(vi\)-\(vii\)](#) provide that attempt to commit terrorism, attempt to commit first degree murder, solicitation of murder, solicitation of murder for hire, intentional homicide of an unborn child, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated battery with a firearm (certain subsections), heinous battery (certain subsections), armed habitual criminal, aggravated battery of a senior citizen (certain subsections), aggravated battery of a child (certain subsections), home invasion, armed robbery, aggravated vehicular hijacking, aggravated discharge of a firearm, certain types of armed violence with a weapon, second or subsequent offense of luring a minor, aggravated domestic battery, aggravated driving under the influence, aggravated battery with a machine gun/ firearm with silencer, aggravated arson are eligible for 4.5 days credit per month and must serve 85% of their sentence in IDOC.

5: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(2\)\(v\)](#) provides that gunrunning, narcotics racketeering, controlled substance trafficking, methamphetamine trafficking, drug-induced homicide, aggravated methamphetamine, related child endangerment, money laundering, Class X delivery of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance with intent to manufacture/deliver, calculated criminal drug conspiracy, criminal drug conspiracy, street gang criminal drug conspiracy, participation in methamphetamine manufacturing, aggravated participating in methamphetamine manufacturing, delivery of methamphetamine, possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, aggravated delivery of methamphetamine , aggravated possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, methamphetamine conspiracy if more than 100 grams are eligible for 7.5 days per month and must serve 75% of their sentence in IDOC. [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(4.7\)](#) allows people serving 75% TIS, except those serving a sentence for gunrunning, to decrease the percent of the sentence they serve to 60%.

6: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(3\)](#) provides that the Director of IDOC can award Earned Discretionary Sentence Credits (EDSC) in addition to programming and education credits of up to 180 days for a person whose sentence is less than 5 years, and 360 days for a person whose sentence is 5 years or longer.

7: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(4.1\)](#) provides that credits in addition to programming and EDSC will be awarded for educational achievements while in IDOC custody. Credits will only be provided for education if the person has not previously earned the degree. Credits are as follows: 90 days for passing the high school equivalency test, 120 days credit for obtaining an associate's degree, 180 days credit for anyone who obtains a bachelor's degree, 180 days credit for anyone who obtains their master's or professional degree while in IDOC custody.

8: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(4.2\)\(A\)](#) provides that a person participating in self-improvement programs, volunteer work, or work assignments that are not otherwise eligible activities under paragraph (4), will receive up to 0.5 days of sentence credit for each day the person participates in the programming.

9: [730 ILCS 5/3-6-3\(a\)\(4\)\(A\)](#) provides that a person participating in full-time in substance abuse programs, correctional industry assignments, educational programs, work-release programs or activities in accordance with Article 13 of Chapter III of the Code of Corrections, behavior modification programs, life skills courses, or re-entry planning and satisfactorily completes the assigned program, will receive one day of sentence credit for each day in which that person participates in the programming.