
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

- Modifies the composition of the Department of Youth Services Release Authority to a minimum of three but not more than five members.

Release Authority

(R.C. 5139.50)

The act modifies the composition of the Release Authority in the Department of Youth Services. Under the act, the Release Authority must consist of a minimum of three but not more than five members. Under prior law, the Release Authority consisted of five or perhaps six members.¹⁷¹

Under the act, the Director of Youth Services must ensure that appointments include: (1) at least one member who has five or more years of experience in criminal justice, juvenile justice, or an equivalent relevant profession, (2) at least one member who has experience in victim services or advocacy or who has been a victim of a crime or is a family member of a victim, and (3) at least one member who has experience in direct care services to delinquent children. Prior law, amended by the act, required that at least four members be appointed who met the qualification described in (1).

The Release Authority serves as the final and sole authority for making decisions, in the interests of public safety and the children involved, regarding the release and discharge of children committed to the legal custody of the Department.

¹⁷¹ The act resolves an ambiguity in the law.

