

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report was to examine whether Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC), Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections, and Youthful Offender System (CDOC-Parole) had removed Intensive Supervised Parole (ISP) offenders from ISP parole supervision because of budgetary constraints. The Denver area news media had provided the names of six (6) former or current parolees under the supervision of CDOC-Parole, claiming all six had been released from ISP parole supervision because of budgetary issues within the department.

Utilizing the names of parolees provided by the news media, the OIG and Office of Information Technology (OIT) performed a "phrase search" or "word search" of parolee chronological reports beginning in 2002. The phrase and word search parameters were created based on the phrases and words contained within the chronological reports for the six names provided by the media. The parameters of the phrase/word search are limited only to those exact matches for searched phrases and words; therefore, the determination could not be made as to whether the findings of the phrase/word search was inclusive of all ISP parolees which were removed from ISP supervision for budget reasons. The final results reflect the minimal number and are inclusive of all chronological entries which contained the identified phrases and words. The list generated by OIT was then manually reviewed to eliminate any possible cases containing the phrase/word search that may not be related to the removal of ISP parolees from ISP supervision for budgetary reasons.

The results of the phrase/word search in the chronological reports identified approximately 4828 parolee names. This list was manually reviewed with a final total of 1198 names in which the assigned parole officer noted the parolee was being removed from ISP because of budget reasons, or the parolee was not placed on ISP because of program caps. In reviewing the information related only to those parolees removed from ISP for budgetary reasons, it appears the practice is widespread with no evidence of this practice occurring in only isolated areas of parole, under a specific supervisor, or within a specific parole office or region. The last entry of ISP removal for budget reasons occurred in May 2013. The information indicates this practice to be a system-wide business practice which was widely accepted, practiced for many years and continues to date.