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1998 Survey of Rhode Island Law: Legislation: Criminal Offenses: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses - Parole

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Criminal Offense. *An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses - Parole.* Provides community supervision as a form of parole in cases where a person was convicted of first or second degree child molestation. The statute imposes community supervision for life for people convicted of first degree child molestation. For those individuals eighteen years or older convicted of second degree child molestation, the term of the original sentence imposed and the community supervision sentence shall not exceed thirty years. Effective January 1, 1999. 1998 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 375.

This legislation (the Act) amends chapter 13-8 of the General Laws. Section 13-8-30 was added to include community supervision as a mandatory requisite of parole in cases involving first and second degree child molestation.¹ The purpose of the supervision is to ensure public safety by protecting the public from those who have committed a sex offense.² The supervision is also intended to serve as a method of rehabilitation for sex offenders.³ The Act provides that any person convicted of first degree child molestation, pursuant to section 11-37-8.1, or of second degree child molestation, pursuant to section 11-37-8.3, shall be subject to community supervision.⁴ The Act provides that the community supervision is to be applied after the convicted child molester has completed his or her sentence, which has been imposed as a result of the conviction.⁵

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1. See R.I. Gen. Laws § 13-8-30 (1956) (1994 Reenactment & Supp. 1998).

2. 1998 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 375.

3. *Id.*

4. R.I. Gen. Laws § 13-8-30 (1956) (1994 Reenactment & Supp. 1998).

5. See *id.* The Act specifically refers to a sentence as being a prison sentence, suspended sentence, and/or probationary term.