PAROLE <u>AS PROVIDED IN § 7–301(C) OR (D) OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE</u>, THE COURT SHALL STATE IN OPEN COURT THE MINIMUM TIME THE DEFENDANT MUST SERVE <u>FOR THE VIOLENT CRIME</u> BEFORE BECOMING ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE.

- (B) THE STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A PART OF THE SENTENCE.
- (C) THE FAILURE OF A COURT TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE LEGALITY OR EFFICACY OF THE SENTENCE IMPOSED.

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- (a) Nothing in this article may be construed to prohibit the use of judicial guidelines in setting sentences.
 - (b) However, the guidelines may not:
- (1) Prescribe a sentence exceeding the maximum sentence provided by law; or
- (2) Be used in violation of any mandatory minimum sentence prescribed by law.]
- (A) (1) IN A CASE IN A CIRCUIT COURT INVOLVING A CRIME SUBJECT TO THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 41, TITLE 21 OF THE CODE, THE COURT SHALL:
- (I) HAVE PRESENTED TO IT THE APPROPRIATE SENTENCING GUIDELINES WORKSHEET: AND
- $_{\rm (H)}$ REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF THE APPLICABLE SENTENCING GUIDELINES.
- (2) IT IS VOLUNTARY FOR THE COURT TO SENTENCE WITHIN THE GUIDELINES.
- (2) (3) THE COURT SHALL MAKE THE COMPLETED SENTENCING CUIDELINES WORKSHEET PART OF THE RECORD OF THE CASE.
- (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN A CASE IN A CIRCUIT COURT INVOLVING A CRIME SUBJECT TO THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES IN WHICH THE COURT IMPOSES A SENTENCE EITHER GREATER OR LESSER THAN THAT INDICATED IN THE GUIDELINES, THE COURT SHALL FILE A WRITTEN RECORD OF REASONS FOR THE DEPARTURE, USING THE FORM PROVIDED WITH THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES WORKSHEET.
- (2) A SENTENCE TO A CORRECTIONS OPTIONS PROGRAM THAT FALLS WITHIN THE CORRECTIONS OPTIONS ZONE SHOWN ON A MATRIX SHALL CONSTITUTE A SENTENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CUIDELINES.