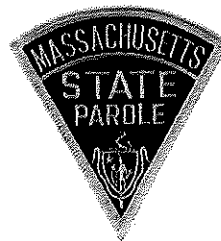


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ALEXIS MOLINA**

**W82456**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 19, 2017

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 15, 2018

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>1</sup> Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On September 24, 2003, in Bristol Superior Court, Alexis Molina pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of his mother Catherine Molina Velazquez and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he also pleaded guilty to armed robbery with a knife, larceny of a motor vehicle, and larceny. These charges were filed.

On November 25, 2002, New Bedford police responded to a report of a foul odor coming from a second floor apartment. Upon investigation, officers found the body of 39-year-old Catherine Molina Velazquez in a bedroom closet, wrapped in a blanket. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be a knife wound to the neck. The victim's son, 22-year-old Alexis Molina, was questioned multiple times by New Bedford police. The investigation revealed

<sup>1</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in five years.

several discrepancies in Mr. Molina's various stories. On December 9, 2002, Mr. Molina was arrested for the murder of his mother. After being booked, Mr. Molina confessed to the murder. He also confessed to taking his mother's car and jewelry, as well as approximately \$6,000 and drugs.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 19, 2017**

Alexis Molina, now 37-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on December 19, 2017. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Molina took responsibility for the murder, claiming that he had loved her. He expressed his sorrow for killing her, explaining that they were both in a dark place at that time. Mr. Molina said that he wishes he knew then, what he knows now, about the support and treatment programs available to those struggling with addiction and mental illness. He has been targeted by other inmates because of the nature of his crime, telling the Board, "Please don't leave me in here."

Board Members asked Mr. Molina whether he was being treated for mental illness at the time he killed his mother. He responded that approximately one month before the murder, he had been released from the psychiatric ward of New Bedford Hospital. He was suffering from depression and anxiety and had tried to kill himself by drinking bleach. The Board noted that Mr. Molina's life history is quite tragic. At the time of the murder, he had dropped out of high school and was unemployed. He was also addicted to drugs and involved in a security threat group. When the Board asked whether he had been abused, Mr. Molina stated that his mother beat him and his sister many, many times.

The Board questioned Mr. Molina as to whether he went to his mother's house with the intent of killing her. Mr. Molina explained that he had recently moved out of the house and went there only to get his clothes. Once there, however, his mother said she was going to tell his sister's parole officer to arrest her for parole violations. Mr. Molina said that his sister had attempted suicide the last time she was incarcerated, so this upset him. Mr. Molina told the Board that as his mother was looking for the parole officer's number, he broke down. He retrieved a knife from the kitchen, came up behind his mother, and slit her throat. After he killed his mother, Mr. Molina was worried he would go to jail and there would be no one to care for his younger sister. So, he hid the body, hoping no one would find out who killed her.

The Board noted that Mr. Molina had been transferred out of state due to numerous enemies in Massachusetts. When the Board questioned him about this issue, Mr. Molina said that he was a former member of a security threat group (STG), where killing a family member was against the group's code. As he was a target for punishment by the STG, he had to constantly defend himself from other inmates in Massachusetts. Mr. Molina told the Board that he signed security threat group renunciation papers in Pennsylvania. Mr. Molina claims to have had a good adjustment since transferring out of state. His last disciplinary report was in 2015, for passing betting receipts from one inmate to another.

When questioned by the Board as to his programming efforts, Mr. Molina said that he attends Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous and Muslim services. He has completed Violence Reduction and Anger Management. In addition, he said that he does volunteer work, studies for the G.E.D. exam, and is a tier worker. Mr. Molina said that he sees a mental health counselor once a month. Mr. Molina asked the Parole Board for a reserve to a long term

residential program, where he could attend school and receive counseling after a gradual step-down to lower security.

Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Shelby Smith testified in opposition to parole.


### **III. DECISION**


The Board is of the opinion that Alexis Molina has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Molina is serving his first adult, first state incarceration for the murder of his mother. Mr. Molina should avail himself of rehabilitation to address his causative factors.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken consideration Mr. Molina's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction could effectively minimize Mr. Molina's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Molina's case, the Board is of the opinion that Alexis Molina does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Molina's next appearance before the Parole Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Molina to continue to work towards his full rehabilitation.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.*

  
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Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel/Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date