



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ALFRED JENKS
W60194

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 19, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: July 30, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,¹ James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is granted on or after 6 months total in lower security to Interstate Compact New Hampshire.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 4, 1996, in Essex Superior Court, Alfred Jenks was convicted of first-degree murder and unlawfully carrying a firearm. Mr. Jenks was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for his murder conviction. Mr. Jenks received a 4 to 5 year sentence, to be served concurrently with his life sentence, for the firearm conviction.

Mr. Jenks became parole eligible following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216 (2024), where the court held that sentencing individuals who were ages 18 through 20 at the time of the offense (emerging adults) to life without the possibility of parole is unconstitutional. As a result of the SJC's decision, the mittimus for Mr. Jenks' first-degree murder conviction was corrected to reflect that Mr. Jenks' life sentence carried the possibility of parole after 15 years.

Alfred Jenks, now 51-years-old, appeared before the Board for his initial parole hearing on March 19, 2025. Mr. Jenks was represented by Attorney Meryl Kukura. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Jenks' March 19, 2025, hearing.

¹ Chair Hurley participated in this vote prior to her departure from the Board.

² Three Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: Urzula Nonon (age 16) was an innocent bystander when she was killed by a bullet, fired by 20-year-old Alfred Jenks, that traveled through a wall and struck her in the head. The murder occurred on April 2, 1994, at a dance hall in Lynn. Before the shooting, Mr. Jenks had a confrontation outside of the dance hall with a man. Words were exchanged, and Mr. Jenks drew a 9mm pistol, pointing it at him. Another person intervened, the men were separated, and the man entered the dance hall. Later, Mr. Jenks, who was still armed, entered the dance hall. Mr. Jenks approached the man from the earlier confrontation, pulled the pistol from his waistband, and stated, "What's up now?" The man backed away from Mr. Jenks. Others attempted to disarm Mr. Jenks, which caused Mr. Jenks to fall to the floor and drop the gun. Mr. Jenks then grabbed the gun, stood up, and quickly fired five rounds at the ceiling. He then fired two more rounds, straight ahead. Mr. Jenks was chased from the dance hall. The victim was found lying in a pool of blood after sustaining a gunshot wound to the head. A bullet had passed through a wall and killed her.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

Where a parole candidate was convicted of first-degree murder for a crime committed when he was ages 18 through 20 years old, the Board considers the "unique aspects" of emerging adulthood that distinguish emerging adult offenders from older offenders. Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216, 238 (2024). Individuals who were emerging adults at the time of the offense must be afforded a "meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation" and the Board evaluates "the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, including the age of the offender, together with all relevant information pertaining to the offender's character and actions during the intervening years since conviction." *Id.* (citing Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk Dist., 466 Mass. 655, 674 (2013) (Diatchenko I); Miller v. Alabama, 567 U.S. 460, 471 (2012); Graham v. Florida, 560 U.S. 48, 75 (2010)). Since brain development in emerging adulthood is ongoing, the Board also considers the following factors when evaluating parole candidates who committed the underlying offenses as an emerging adult: 1) a lack of impulse control in emotionally arousing situations; 2) an increased likelihood to engage in risk taking behaviors in pursuit of reward; 3) increased susceptibility to peer influence which makes emerging adults more likely to engage in risky behavior; and 4) an emerging adult's greater capacity for change. *See Mattis*, 493 Mass. at 225-229.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Jenks' first hearing before the Board. He was 20-years-old at the time of the offense. He is currently 51-years-old and has served 31 years. Mr. Jenks began to invest in self-development before the *Mattis* decision. Mr. Jenks has earned his

bachelor's degree from Boston University. He has gained employment skills and has gained insight into the factors that led to his offense. Mr. Jenks is already in minimum security. He has had excellent conduct throughout his incarceration. Mr. Jenks has developed a strong re-entry plan in conjunction with Ron Michaels, LICSW, who also testified at his hearing. Mr. Jenks has a support system to assist with his re-entry needs.

The Board considered public testimony from members of Mr. Jenks' family, who spoke in support of parole. Additionally, the Board considered testimony from the victim's family, and from Essex County Assistant District Attorney A.J. Camelio, in opposition to parole.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Approve home plan before release to New Hampshire; Release to other authority: Interstate Compact New Hampshire; Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months only; Supervise for drugs with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment.

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.



Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

7/30/25

Date