



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Gina K. Kwon
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4598

Angelo Gomez, Jr.
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD BENSON
W37199

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 24, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: September 1, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On July 18, 1979, in Plymouth Superior court, Ronald Benson³ pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 20-year-old Richard P. Carr and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Benson was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2007 and review hearing in 2023. Mr. Benson waived or postponed his hearings in 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2012, 2017, and 2022.

On March 24, 2026, Mr. Benson appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Matthew Koes. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Benson's March 24, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 7, 1978, Ronald Benson, after drinking in a bar in Boston and buying a switchblade, picked up Richard Carr for the purposes of having sex. As Mr. Benson drove Mr. Carr to Mr. Benson's family's home in Wareham, Mr. Carr became uncomfortable and indicated he wanted to return to Boston. Instead, Mr. Benson drove to Maple Park in East Wareham and parked the car. Mr. Benson placed a blanket on the ground and attempted to have sex with Mr. Carr. Mr. Carr indicated that he did not want to have sex, at

¹ Chair Gomez was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² One Board Member voted to grant parole to an LTRP or VA program.

³ On December 21, 1999, in Plymouth Probate Court, Ronald Grant Hendricken legally changed his name to Ronald Nicholas Benson.

which point a struggle ensued and Mr. Benson stabbed Mr. Carr multiple times, killing him. After Mr. Carr was dead, Mr. Benson cut his penis off. Mr. Carr's body was found the next day.

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.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Benson appeared for the third time before the Board. He previously waived or postponed other hearings throughout his 46 years of incarceration. The Board considered the evaluation of Dr. Bard, the report of Kristen Dame, LISCW, and prior sexually dangerous persons evaluations and determinations. The Board also reviewed prior evaluations, Mr. Benson's institutional history, and the nature and circumstances of the crime. The Board finds that Mr. Benson's release is not compatible with the welfare of society. The Board encourages Mr. Benson to continue with counseling to address his history of sexual violence. The Board considered the testimony of Dr. Bard and a social service advocate in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Mello Marvel in opposition to parole.

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.



Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

September 1, 2026
Date