



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

EDWARD STARLING
W35911

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 20, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 17, 2026

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

VOTE: Parole is granted 2 weeks from issuance of decision to a skilled nursing home – Mission Care preferred.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 16, 1976, in Suffolk Superior Court, Edward Starling was found guilty of the second-degree murder of 22-month-old Laquita Prout. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 1991 and review hearings in 1993, 1996, 1999, 2008, 2013, and 2018.²

On November 20, 2025, Mr. Starling appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Elizabeth Caddick. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Starling's November 20, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 24, 1974, Edward Starling (age 19) was babysitting his girlfriend's 22-month-old daughter, Laquita Prout, in Dorchester. At some point in the early morning, Mr. Starling knocked on the door of a neighboring apartment, said there was something wrong with the baby, called an ambulance, and left to look for the baby's mother. Upon arrival, emergency responders found Laquita Prout dead. The medical examiner performed an autopsy

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

² After a review hearing in 2002, Mr. Starling was granted parole but received a rescission and was never released from custody.

and noted that the cause of death was from one or more "very severe blows" to the chest or abdomen with a fist, foot, or some other blunt instrument. Police arrested Mr. Starling that evening. The next day, Mr. Starling was arraigned in Dorchester District Court, where he was released on \$10,000 bail. The case was continued until June 21, 1974. Mr. Starling did not appear at this hearing.

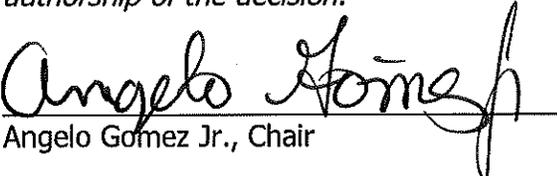
He was found in Newark, New Jersey, on January 18, 1976, living under the assumed name of Marvin Morgan. He was arrested and returned to Boston for trial.

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. Starling appeared for the 9th time before the Parole Board. He was 19 years old at the time of the offense. He is now 71 years old and has served 50 years. Mr. Starling has made considerable progress since the last hearing. Mr. Starling engaged in a forensic evaluation with Dr. Maryanne Galvin where he appeared to gain further insight into his offense and current needs. Mr. Starling has significant medical needs and will require assisted living. Mr. Starling is educated and has been sober throughout his incarceration. The mother of victim remains in support of Mr. Starling's release. The Board considered the expert forensic evaluation by Dr. Galvin in rendering its decision. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Edward Starling has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for disability/waived; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy if medically able; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy if medically able; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; Residential Program: Skilled Nursing home – Mission Care preferred;

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

March 17, 2026
Date