

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF  
PAUL HAWKSLEY  
W100981

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** January 8, 2026

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 4, 2026

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

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 5 years from the date of the hearing.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On June 25, 2012, after a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Paul Hawksley was convicted of rape of a child with force and rape of a child. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole and 20 to 30 years, respectively, to run concurrently with each other. On that same date, he was convicted of two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 and an additional count of rape of a child. Each offense received a sentence of 10 years' probation to be served from and after his current sentence.

On January 8, 2026, Mr. Hawksley appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Hawksley's January 8, 2026, hearing.

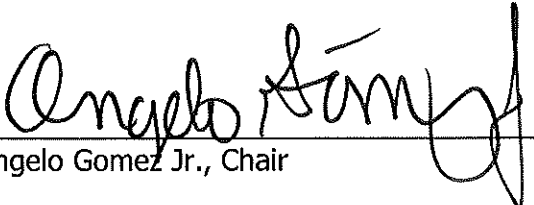
**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** In 2003-2004, Paul Hawksley was one of the leaders of a youth group affiliated with the Fellowship Church in Easton. During this time, Mr. Hawksley repeatedly raped a 12-year-old boy (hereinafter the victim), who was a member of the youth group. The victim moved to Easton in 2003 and became involved in the youth group to meet new friends. Mr. Hawksley groomed the victim over a period of time – calling him multiple times a day, inviting him to sleepovers, and singling him out with gifts and attention.

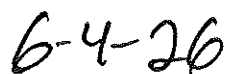
On one occasion, when he was 12-years-old, the victim was playing dodgeball at a youth group meeting and left the group to use the church bathroom. Mr. Hawksley entered the bathroom and forced the victim to engage in oral sex. On a second occasion, Mr. Hawksley brought the victim, along with Mr. Hawksley's family, to a Pawtucket Red Sox game. After the game, the group returned to Mr. Hawksley's house. Mr. Hawksley and the victim went to the family's basement to play video games. Mr. Hawksley, however, then sexually assaulted the victim.

**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:** This was Mr. Hawksley's initial hearing before the Board. Mr. Hawksley is incarcerated for rape of a child. He denies this offense. Mr. Hawksley has a history of prior incarceration for raping multiple children, which he admits to. The facts of all cases follow a similar pattern of predatory behavior and sexual offending. The Board did not find his testimony regarding the current offense to be credible. The Board reviewed the most recent Sex Offender Treatment Program report, which highlighted specific concerns and recommendations. Of additional concern, when asked if there were any additional victims that he sexually offended against, he stated, "I want to speak the truth, but I don't want to be brought up on other charges," showing a complete disregard for the suffering of victims for which he was never held accountable for. The Board finds the testimony of the victim's family to be credible and was considered in rendering its decision. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Hawksley's friend, his sister, and his ex-wife. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from three of the victim's family members. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Silvia Rudman and a written submission by retired Easton Police Sergeant Detective John Lynn. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Paul Hawksley has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

*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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Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

  
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June 4, 2026