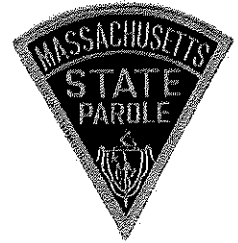




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JESSE ROGERS
W56017

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **July 16, 2025**

DATE OF DECISION: **January 6, 2026**

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

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 4 years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 7, 1994, in Suffolk Superior Court, Jesse Rogers pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of 77-year-old Alba Pellegrini and 32-year-old John Ward, Jr. He was sentenced to two concurrent terms of life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2007, and after review hearings in 2012, 2017, 2022, and 2023. On July 16, 2025, Mr. Rogers appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Chetan Tiwari.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 10, 1991, Jesse Rogers went to the Dorchester home of Alba Pellegrini, where she lived with her grandson, John Ward Jr., and viciously beat and stabbed them both to death. Mr. Rogers was 30-years-old at the time. Ms. Pellegrini had been the caretaker of her grandson, who had suffered from the effects of cerebral palsy since birth. Mr. Ward was confined to a bed, a chair in the kitchen, or a wheelchair. In the summer of 1991, she became unable to provide for all of Mr. Ward's care by herself. In August 1991, she

¹ Board Member Alexander was not present at the hearing. The Chair deemed Board Member Alexander unavailable for the vote on this matter because, due to a malfunction in the Board's audio equipment, she was unable to review the full record of the public hearing. Former Acting Chair Coleman was present at the hearing but had departed the Board prior to the vote.

² One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

requested the assistance of a home health aid from the Boston Visiting Nurses Association. Mr. Rogers was assigned the case of Mr. Ward.

On or about August 19, 1991, Ms. Pellegrini complained to the Visiting Nurses Association that Mr. Rogers had failed to appear on evening visits, forcing her to return Mr. Ward to bed by herself. Mr. Rogers was subsequently removed from the case. On September 9, 1991, however, Mr. Rogers appeared at the Pellegrini home, falsely claiming that he had been sent to provide "therapy" for Mr. Ward. Ms. Pellegrini's sister visited that afternoon and became suspicious, noting that Mr. Rogers appeared intent on not leaving until she left. When Ms. Pellegrini's sister told him she was staying the night, Mr. Rogers finally left. The following day, Mr. Rogers returned to the Pellegrini home with the intent to steal. Ms. Pellegrini's other sister would later report that, while speaking with Ms. Pellegrini on the phone, she heard her sister say to the person at the door, "It's Jesse," and then say, "What are you doing here - you know you're supposed to call before you come." Following the conversation, family members could not reach Ms. Pellegrini at her home. After several failed attempts to reach Ms. Pellegrini, relatives and a friend went to her house and discovered the bodies of Ms. Pellegrini and Mr. Ward on a bed covered with blood.

Mr. Rogers had viciously attacked Ms. Pellegrini by striking her six times in the head and face with a tea kettle and stabbing her three times in the chest (reaching her heart) and once in her neck. The medical examiner opined that she did not die immediately. Mr. Rogers violently attacked Mr. Ward, as well, striking him numerous times on the forehead and face with the same tea kettle and stabbing him several times in his chest and neck. Mr. Ward appeared to have fought for his life, as he had defensive wounds on both his arm and hand. The medical examiner concluded that Mr. Ward had also lived for a period of time before expiring.

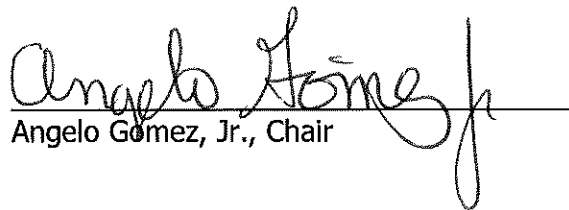
Following the crime, Mr. Rogers was interviewed on three occasions. He repeatedly lied to the police, at times providing false and different alibis. In September 1992, he was arrested for the governing offenses.

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 is Mr. Roger's 6th parole hearing. He is 64-years-old. The Board considered the facts and circumstances of the underlying offense. Mr. Rogers received four disciplinary reports and has engaged in minimal programming since his last hearing. His introduction of new information regarding Methamphetamine use, and his statement that he was under the influence of it at the time he committed the offenses, is concerning due to his ongoing variation in terms of his version of the underlying offense. Mr. Rogers murdered two individuals – a grandmother and her handicapped grandson – and is still getting tickets for physical

altercations with other incarcerated individuals in his early 60's. Mr. Rogers is encouraged to remain disciplinary report free and to participate in rehabilitative programming to help him act in a pro-social way. He is also encouraged to work on ways to cope with difficult situations, i.e. learning of his sister's illness versus hoarding medications in an attempt to take his own life. Dr. DiCataldo's forensic assessment was considered. A member of the victims' family, as well as Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood, testified in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Jesse Rogers 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.


Angelo Gomez, Jr., Chair

January 6, 2026
Date