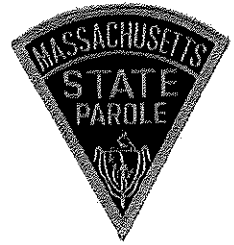


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
PAROLE BOARD

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JODY OLESON
W68169

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 18, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: November 17, 2025

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program after 120 days total in lower security.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 30, 2000, in Suffolk Superior Court, Jody Oleson was found guilty by a jury trial of the second-degree murder of Alfred Fisher. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2013, and after review hearings in 2018 and 2023.

On June 18, 2025, Mr. Oleson appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He did not have legal representation. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Oleson's June 18, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: At approximately 1:30 p.m., on July 27, 1998, 71-year-old Alfred Fisher was murdered by Jody Oleson in Mr. Fisher's South Boston apartment. Mr. Fisher had been alone in his apartment and on the phone with a friend, when Mr. Oleson (age 25) came to his door. Mr. Fisher knew Mr. Oleson through a mutual friend and, while still on the small cordless telephone, let him in. Mr. Oleson then began striking Mr. Fisher. Mr. Fisher's friend, who was still on the line, heard the attack (as well as Mr. Fisher's calls for help) and called police immediately. Mr. Oleson continued his attack, drawing blood from Mr. Fisher's head. Mr. Oleson

¹ One Board Member voted to grant parole but not before 6 months in lower security.

then strangled Mr. Fisher to death. In addition, Mr. Fisher received cuts or bruises to his nose, cheeks, chin, lip, neck, arms, and legs.

Boston police officers arrived to find Mr. Oleson attempting to exit the apartment with bloodied hands and lip. Mr. Fisher was lying unconscious on the blood-stained kitchen floor. Mr. Oleson stated to police that he had come to confront Mr. Fisher for stalking his girlfriend. He said that Mr. Fisher struck him first, and that he struck Mr. Fisher in self-defense. In a taped statement, Mr. Oleson admitted to punching Mr. Fisher once, as well as holding him in a chokehold around the midsection.

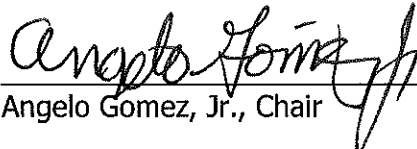
Mr. Oleson appealed his conviction on numerous occasions, but his convictions were affirmed.

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. Oleson's 4th appearance before the Board. Since the last hearing, Mr. Oleson accepted the Board's recommendations and appeared to benefit from continued program involvement. Mr. Oleson has maintained sobriety and is no longer on Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT). Mr. Oleson is now 52 years old and has been incarcerated for 27 years. Mr. Oleson has a history of employment and has acquired skills that will assist him with employment in the community. Mr. Oleson has invested in addressing need areas that were directly related to the offense. He also appears to have benefitted from his investment in Restorative Justice. Mr. Oleson has a well thought-out release plan and support system to assist him with adjustment. The Board considered public testimony in rendering this decision, including two members of the community who spoke in support of parole. Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood testified in opposition to parole and read a written opposition statement from Mr. Fisher's family. The Board concludes that Jody Oleson has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for when program allows; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; Curfew between 10PM and 6AM at parole officer's discretion; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Residential program - Charlestown Recovery House or LTRP; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

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

11-17-25
Date