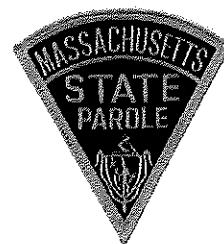


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

KURT KEGLER
W44989

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 12, 2026**

DATE OF DECISION: **July 9, 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 5 years from the date of the hearing.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 7, 1988, in Plymouth Superior Court, Kurt Kegler pled guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Paul Rober Jr. He was sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On February 12, 2026, Mr. Kegler appeared before the Board for a review hearing.² He was represented by Attorney Courtney Kenyon. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Kegler's February 12, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 11, 1986, Kurt Kegler (then 28 years old) beat Paul Rober, a paraplegic, to death in Plymouth. The day after the murder, Mr. Kegler and his girlfriend reported to police that they had witnessed an acquaintance beat Mr. Rober to death in a deserted shack on Route 44 in Plymouth. After police noted discrepancies in their stories, Mr. Kegler ultimately admitted to murdering Mr. Rober. He stated that Mr. Rober was trying to have sexual relations with his girlfriend and that this set him off. He admitted he hit Mr. Rober in the back with a clenched fist. He then slapped him in the face and picked up a white birch log which he described as being about 2 feet long and 4 inches in diameter. He held the log over Mr. Rober's

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a 3-year review.

² The Board elected to postpone Mr. Kegler's 2001 initial hearing and 2024 review hearing for appointment of counsel. Mr. Kegler opted to waive his review hearings in 2006 and 2009 and postponed in 2014 and 2019.

head and swung it, hitting him in the back of the head. He then hit him three or four more times while Paul was pleading with him to stop. He then pulled Mr. Rober, who was in a wheelchair, down to the foot of the hill by pulling on the rope that Mr. Kegler had tied around his neck and mouth.

Mr. Kegler went on to state that an acquaintance showed up, and they told him what had happened. The acquaintance then helped Kurt by holding Mr. Rober on the ground while Kurt jerked him up and down with the rope around his mouth and neck until they heard gurgling noises. Then they cooked a steak that the acquaintance had stolen earlier that day and went to bed.

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. Kegler's second appearance before the Board. He was 28 years old at the time of the offense. He is now 67 years old and has been incarcerated for 40 years. He has not completed any programs related to his need areas. He has had an adversarial relationship with the Department of Correction and has not demonstrated any investment in rehabilitation. Mr. Kegler presented with little interest in feedback. He requested to end hearing. The Board credits Mr. Kegler for remaining in the hearing; however, the Board does encourage him to accept recommendations from the Board and engage in rehabilitation. The Board also reviewed the expert evaluation conducted by Dr. Nestor and considered his clinical opinion in rendering its decision. The Board finds data supporting a diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder and his attitude as described in the evaluation to be of significant concern. The Board recommends he engage in mental health treatment in hopes that he can work on concerns highlights in the neuropsychological assessment. The Board considered testimony from two members of Mr. Rober's family in opposition to parole, as did Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Marvel. The Board concludes that Kurt Kegler 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

July 9, 2026
Date