

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

KENNETH SEGUIN¹
W53954

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 13, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: July 17, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,² James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 5 years from date of hearing.³

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On February 4, 1993, following a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Kenneth Seguin was convicted of three counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of his wife, Mary Ann (known as Polly), and their two children, Danny (age 7) and Amy (age 5). He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for the murder of his wife, followed by two concurrent life sentences with the possibility of parole for the murder of his children.⁴ Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2007, and after review hearings in 2012, 2017, and 2022. On March 13, 2025, Kenneth Seguin appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by student attorneys from Boston College Defenders. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Kenneth Seguin March 13, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the evening of April 28, 1992, while Polly was out (and just a few days after moving to a new residence in Holliston), Mr. Seguin drugged his children with sleeping pills and drove them to a deserted pond in Franklin. He then murdered them,

¹ Although numerous documents list the subject's name as Kenneth Seguin, the indictments and Supreme Judicial Court opinion on this matter list his name as Kenneth Seguin.

² Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior to her departure from the Board.

³ Three Board Members voted to deny with a review in 3 years.

⁴ Following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in Dinkins & another v. Massachusetts Parole Board, 486 Mass. 605 (2021), Mr. Seguin received an aggregated parole eligibility date of April 30, 2022.

concealing their bodies in the murky waters of the pond. Mr. Seguin later drove home to Holliston and bludgeoned Polly to death in their bed. Polly's body, clothed only in a nightshirt, was discovered the next morning, floating in the Sudbury River in Southborough. She had suffered a gaping wound in her left temple, and a subsequent autopsy revealed that the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head. After her body was discovered, police questioned Mr. Seguin, who claimed that two men had broken into his home and attacked him and bashed Polly over the head with an axe. He told authorities that the intruders had given the children sleeping pills, and that they had been in their beds.

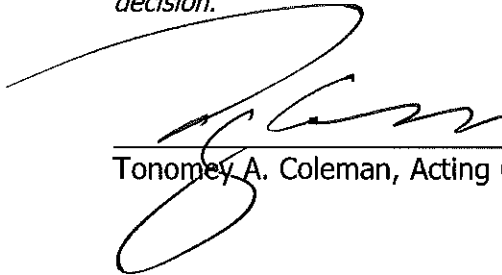
Police discovered the children's bodies on May 2, 1992, at Beaver Pond in Franklin. Danny's body was submerged under the water. Mr. Seguin had piled leaves, sticks, debris, and muck from the bottom of the pond on top of his body. Mr. Seguin slashed Danny's throat with a razor, slicing him from each earlobe to his Adam's apple. Amy's body was discovered not far from Danny's. Again, Mr. Seguin used debris from the area to conceal her body, forcing her head into the muck at the bottom of the pond, so that only her sneakers were visible. Mr. Seguin slashed both of her wrists and severely injured her arms. Autopsies revealed traces of sleeping pills in their systems. Subsequent police investigation revealed that Mr. Seguin had attempted to cover up the murders by flipping over the blood-stained mattress from the bed (where he killed Polly) and covering it with a quilt. He also made anonymous calls to the children's schools the next morning, informing school authorities that neither child would be present that day.

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 (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Seguin was last before the Board in 2022. He is now-67 years-old. He has been incarcerated since 1992. The Board continues to have concerns regarding Mr. Seguin's level of rehabilitation. Mr. Seguin continues to minimize his actions. The horrific nature of the three murders, and Mr. Seguin's continued attempts at rationalizing his actions and behaviors, concern the Board and inform the Board's decision that Mr. Seguin must continue his rehabilitative efforts and that his release at this time is not compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Seguin is encouraged to continue to address issues involving victim empathy and reflect on how his actions affected the community. The Board considered the strong opposition testimony of the victim's family and the community. The Board heard testimony from two of Mr. Seguin's family members, two friends, and a minister in support of parole. The Board heard testimony in opposition to parole from Officer Charles Todd (Ret.), three of the victims' family members, and Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Alicia

Walsh. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Kenneth Seguin 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.



Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

7/17/25

Date