



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Michael J. Callahan**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**KENNETH SEGUIN**

**W53954**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **March 21, 2017**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **August 15, 2017**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

In April 1992, Kenneth Seguin brutally murdered his wife, Mary Ann (known as Polly), and their two children, Danny (age 7), and Amy (age 5). He was convicted by a jury of three counts of second-degree murder on February 4, 1993. He was sentenced to serve 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. The Supreme Judicial Court upheld the convictions, *Commonwealth v. Seguin*, 421 Mass. 243 (1996), and subsequent petitions for review by the United States Supreme Court were denied in 1996. Mr. Seguin seeks a parole to his two concurrent life sentences.

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, drove them to a deserted pond in Franklin, murdered them, and concealed their bodies in the murky waters of



the pond. He 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 to 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 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 had 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 had 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 had also made anonymous calls to the children's schools the morning after the murders, informing school authorities that neither child would be present that day.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MARCH 21, 2017**

Kenneth Seguin, now 59-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 21, 2017. Mr. Seguin was not represented by an attorney. His initial hearing in 2007, as well as his review hearing in 2012, resulted in the denial of parole. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Seguin apologized for taking the lives of his wife and two children and expressed his remorse. He also expressed his sorrow and pain, accepting responsibility for a crime that killed three innocent victims. Mr. Seguin discussed his lifestyle in the years leading up to the murder and the complications that arose within his marriage. He explained that his first phase of depression started in college, when he was diagnosed with cancer (at 20-years-old) and his father-in-law died. He initially sought help for depression, but did not continue. Mr. Seguin's second phase of depression started in 1992, following the discord in his marriage as a result of buying a house. Mr. Seguin also stated that he was having difficulty with money, and his checks started to bounce. He and Polly began to argue over her career, as well as having more children. When Polly mentioned leaving him, Mr. Seguin felt as if he was losing control of his family and, further, that he was a failure.

Mr. Seguin explained that his plan was to kill the whole family, himself included, after Polly expressed her decision to potentially leave him. The Board noted its concern regarding the lack of help sought by Mr. Seguin, which may have prevented this crime from occurring. When Mr. Seguin spoke about killing his wife and children, the Board questioned him about his actions after murdering his family. He said that he took Polly's body to a river, returned home, disposed of the sheets, and flipped the mattress. The next day, Mr. Seguin called the children's school to inform them that they would not be in. The Board believes, however, that Mr. Seguin is not being truthful when he stated that the plan included killing himself, particularly as Mr. Seguin made such an effort to cover up the crime scene. Board Members questioned whether Mr. Seguin's motive was to get rid of the people who were causing problems in his life. Mr.



Seguin responded that such was not the case, but admitted that he falsified a story about cuts on his body. He claimed that he was in denial about killing his family, so he created the story about intruders harming him. Mr. Seguin claims that he took responsibility of this matter at his arraignment by admitting that he actually cut himself. Board Members also questioned whether Mr. Seguin is selfish and narcissistic, expressing concern that these traits are what led him to commit such horrific crimes.

During his incarceration, Mr. Seguin has held many jobs, including librarian for the past 10 years. He has also participated in many programs including Toastmasters, Mental Health Group, and Men's Group. The Board considered oral testimony from Mr. Seguin's brother, friend, sister, and former employee, all of whom expressed support for parole. The Board also considered oral testimony from Polly's two sisters, a Holliston Police Chief, a Holliston Police Detective, and Middlesex District Attorney Kevin Curtain, all of whom expressed opposition to parole. The Board received letters of opposition from the Holliston Police Department and from Middlesex District Attorney Adrienne Lynch.

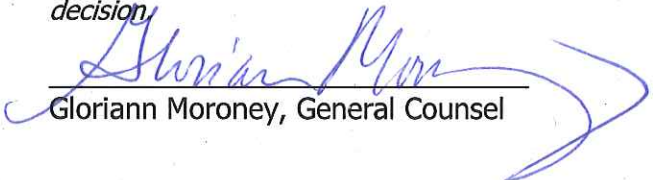
### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Kenneth Seguin has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes that a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Seguin's rehabilitation. The Board also believes that Mr. Seguin lacks empathy and insight into a horrendous crime, which resulted in the brutal murder of his wife and two children.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Seguin's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, education, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Seguin's risk of recidivism. After applying the standard to the circumstances of Mr. Seguin's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Seguin is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Seguin's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Seguin to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*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.*

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

8/15/17  
Date