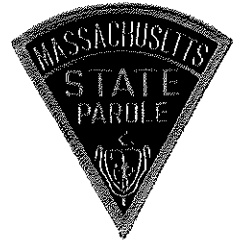


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**MANUEL MONIZ
W99783**

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 25, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: May 13, 2024

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

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

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 16, 2011, in Bristol County Superior Court, Manuel Moniz pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On January 25, 2024, Manuel Moniz appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Boston College Law student attorney Sam Hodgkins-Sumner under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Manuel Moniz's January 25, 2024 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On Saturday, March 14, 2009, New Bedford police were dispatched regarding a 911 call for an 18-month-old child, Priscilla Walker, who was vomiting and having trouble breathing. Priscilla Walker was transported to St. Luke's Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Initially, Manuel Moniz told police that he had accidentally dropped Priscilla. He denied striking her or dropping her at any other time. Mr. Moniz later told police that he accidentally hit Priscilla in the head with a heavy plastic toy when he threw it at a wall across the room because he was angry with the child's mother. As a result of being hit with the toy, Priscilla had a large red mark on her head. Mr. Moniz told Priscilla's mother that the child must have hit her head

on the crib. He convinced the mother not to take Priscilla to the hospital even though she was throwing up. Mr. Moniz also told police that he had accidentally stepped on Priscilla's abdomen.

Following his interview with police on March 26, 2009, Mr. Moniz was placed under arrest for the murder of Priscilla Walker.

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: Manuel Moniz has begun his rehabilitation by completing multiple programs, such as Anger Management and Conflict Resolution. He has received his GED and has been employed since 2016. However, Mr. Moniz continues to lack insight into the causative factors of his crime. Mr. Moniz should focus his rehabilitative efforts towards addressing family violence, healthy relationships, and parenting. Programs addressing victim impact will also hopefully provide him with insight. Mr. Moniz described abuse of controlled substances, and the Board recommends Mr. Moniz address these self-described behaviors.

The victim's mother appeared in opposition to parole. Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Jason Mohan also appeared in opposition to parole. Mr. Moniz's sister appeared in support of parole.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date